MARY SHELLEY

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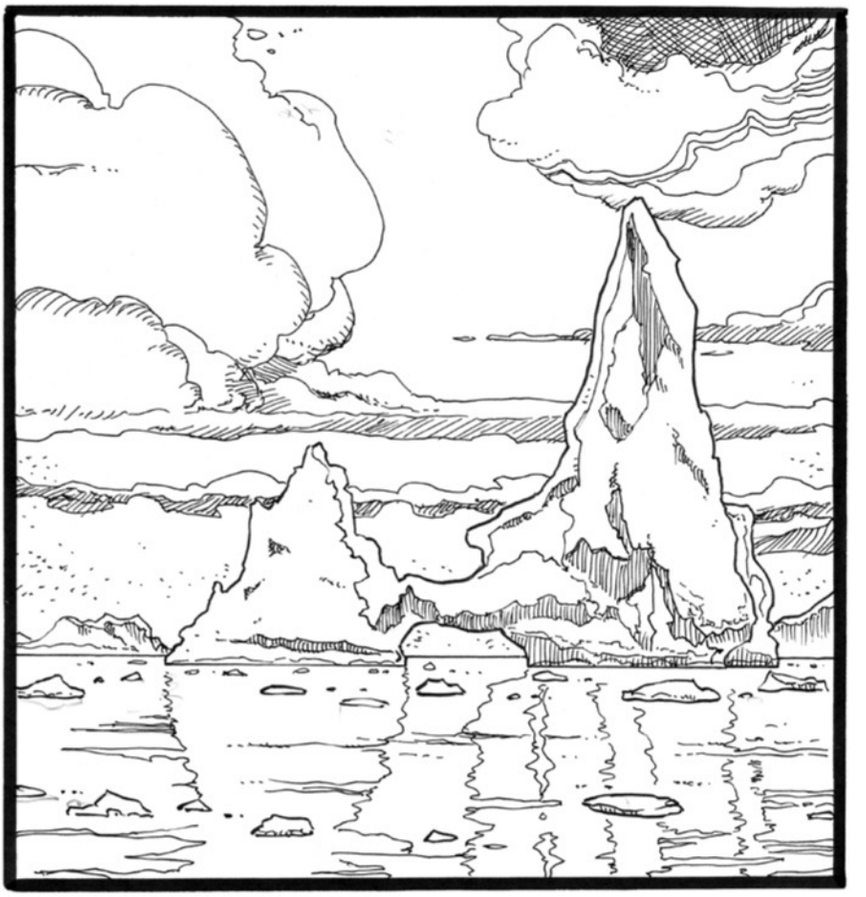


The Land of Fog and Snow

Captain Walton's Journal

FRIDAY, JULY 7TH.

FLOATING SHEETS OF ICE CONTINUALLY PASS US... MY MEN ARE BOLD AND APPARENTLY FIRM OF PURPOSE... THE MASTER IS A PERSON OF AN EXCELLENT DISPOSITION AND IS REMARKABLE IN THE SHIP FOR HIS GENTLENESS AND THE MILDNESS OF HIS DISCIPLINE. I FELT MYSELF PECULIARLY FORTUNATE IN BEING ABLE TO SECURE HIS SERVICE...

IT HAS BEEN SEVERAL DAYS SINCE WE DEPARTED ARCHANGEL... A COLD NORTHERN BREEZE PLAYS UPON MY CHEEKS, WHICH BRACES MY NERVES AND FILLS ME WITH DELIGHT! THIS EXPEDITION HAS BEEN THE FAVOURITE DREAM OF MY EARLY YEARS! I WILL BE THE FIRST TO DISCOVER A PASSAGE NEAR THE POLE...

THURSDAY, JULY 27TH

WE HAVE ENTERED ANOTHER WORLD... A PETRIFIED UNIVERSE... THE SILENCE THAT SURROUNDS US IS OCCASIONALLY BROKEN BY THE CRACKING SOUND OF THE FLOATING SHEETS OF ICE...

THE LARGE ICE MASSES CAN BE IMMENSE AND OF IRREGULAR SHAPE... SOME RESEMBLE VAST FLOATING CATHEDRALS... THIS IS A REGION OF STUPEFYING BEAUTY... THE MEN ARE HUMBLED AS THOUGH WE HAVE ENTERED SACRED GROUND... THE SUBLIME ELEVATES THE SOUL!

MONDAY, JULY 31ST

THIS MORNING, WE WERE NEARLY SURROUNDED BY ICE, WHICH CLOSED IN THE SHIP ON ALL SIDES. OUR SITUATION WAS SOMEWHAT DANGEROUS...

...ESPECIALLY AS WE WERE COMPASSED ROUND BY A VERY THICK FOG. WE ACCORDINGLY LAY TO.

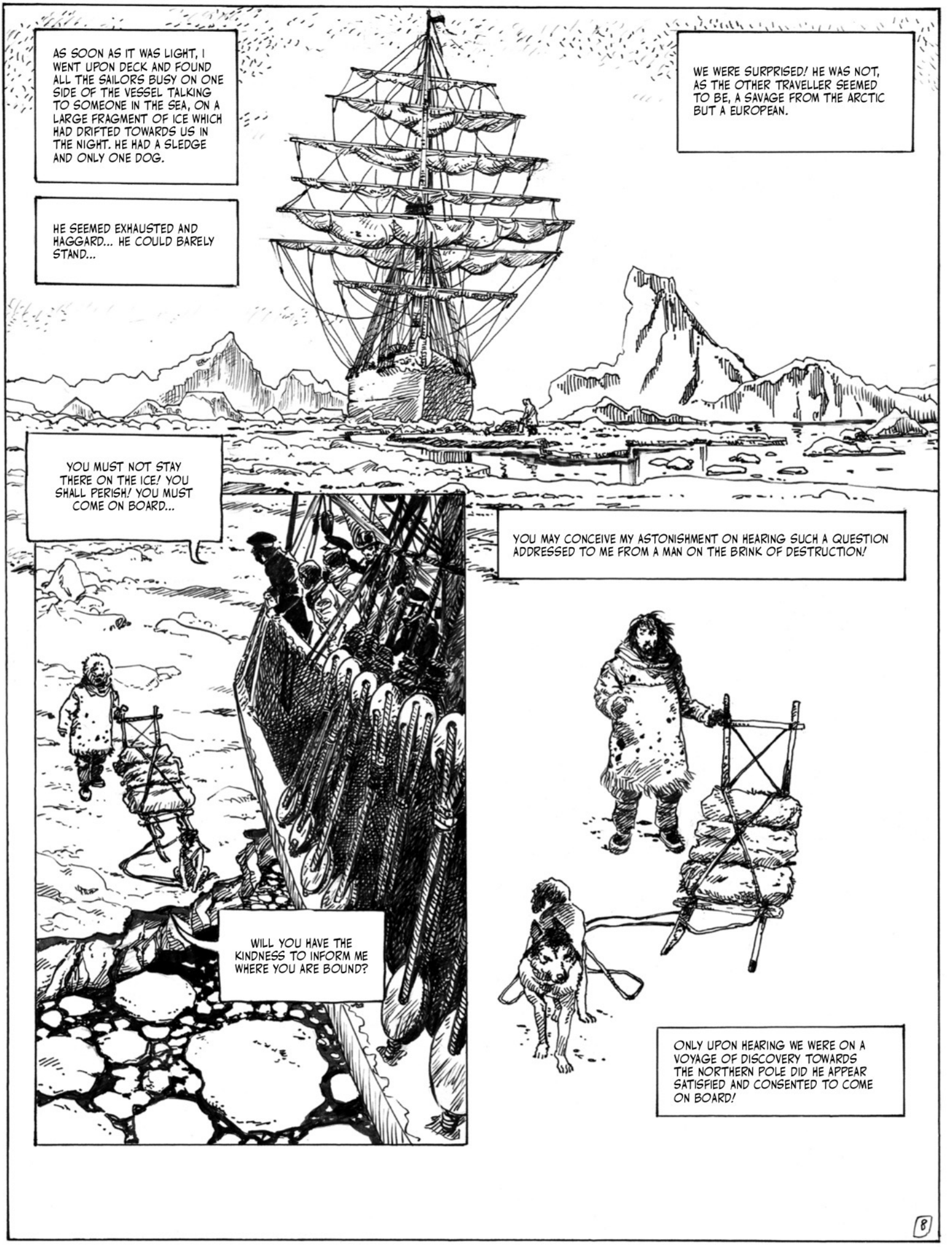
4

LIKE ALL MARINERS, WE ARE AT THE MERCY OF ATMOSPHERIC AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS, WHICH ARE PARTICULARLY CHANGEABLE IN THESE LATITUDES... FORTUNATELY WE ARE AT THE HEIGHT OF SUMMER WHEN THE SOUTHERN GALES SHOULD BLOW US SPEEDILY TOWARDS THOSE SHORES WHICH I SO ARDENTLY DESIRE TO ATTAIN... I DO NOT LET MY MIND ENTER DARK THOUGHTS... I WAS CONVINCED THE ICE WOULD BREAK SOON AND FREE OUR SHIP...

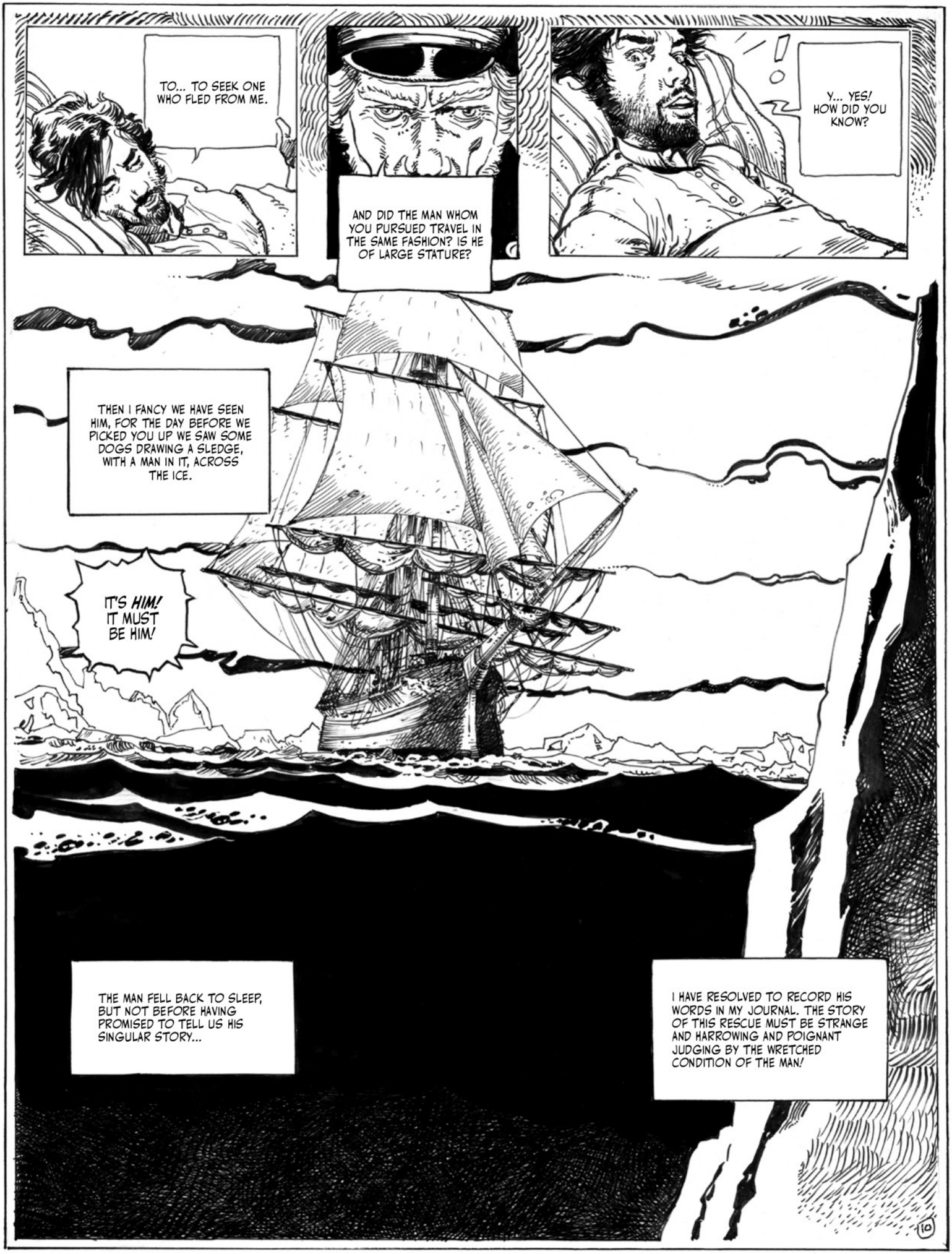
5

A LITTLE LATER THE MIST CLEARED AWAY, AND WE BEHELD, STRETCHED OUT IN EVERY DIRECTION, VAST AND IRREGULAR PLAINS OF ICE, WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE NO END.
THEN, A STRANGE SIGHT SUDDENLY ATTRACTED OUR ATTENTION. WE PERCEIVED A SLEDGE DRAWN BY DOGS PASS ON TOWARDS THE NORTH AT THE DISTANCE OF HALF A MILE! A BEING OF APPARENTLY GIGANTIC STATURE GUIDED THE DOGS. WE TOOK HIM FOR AN INHABITANT OF SOME UNDISCOVERED ISLAND...
WE WATCHED HIS RAPID PROGRESS WITH OUR TELESCOPES UNTIL HE WAS LOST AMONG THE DISTANT INEQUALITIES OF THE ICE.
WE WERE, AS WE BELIEVED, MANY HUNDRED MILES FROM ANY LAND; BUT THIS APPARITION SEEMED TO DENOTE THAT IT WAS NOT, IN REALITY, SO DISTANT AS WE HAD SUPPOSED.
6

A FEW HOURS LATER, WE HEARD THE GROUND SEA, AND THE ICE BROKE AND FREED OUR SHIP.
WE, HOWEVER, LAY TO UNTIL THE MORNING, FEARING TO ENCOUNTER IN THE DARK THOSE LARGE LOOSE MASSES WHICH FLOAT ABOUT AFTER THE BREAKING UP OF THE ICE.
I PROFITED OF THIS TIME TO REST FOR A FEW HOURS.


AS SOON AS IT WAS LIGHT, I WENT UPON DECK AND FOUND ALL THE SAILORS BUSY ON ONE SIDE OF THE VESSEL TALKING TO SOMEONE IN THE SEA, ON A LARGE FRAGMENT OF ICE WHICH HAD DRIFTED TOWARDS US IN THE NIGHT. HE HAD A SLEDGE AND ONLY ONE DOG.
HE SEEMED EXHAUSTED AND HAGGARD... HE COULD BARELY STAND...
WE WERE SURPRISED! HE WAS NOT, AS THE OTHER TRAVELLER SEEMED TO BE, A SAVAGE FROM THE ARCTIC BUT A EUROPEAN.
YOU MUST NOT STAY THERE ON THE ICE! YOU SHALL PERISH! YOU MUST COME ON BOARD...
YOU MAY CONCEIVE MY ASTONISHMENT ON HEARING SUCH A QUESTION ADDRESSED TO ME FROM A MAN ON THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION!
WILL YOU HAVE THE KINDNESS TO INFORM ME WHERE YOU ARE BOUND?
ONLY UPON HEARING WE WERE ON A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY TOWARDS THE NORTHERN POLE DID HE APPEAR SATISFIED AND CONSENTED TO COME ON BOARD!
8

HIS LIMBS WERE NEARLY FROZEN, AND HIS BODY DREADFULLY EMACIATED BY FATIGUE AND SUFFERING. HE WAS IN A WRETCHED CONDITION.
WE CARRIED HIM INTO THE CABIN AND RESTORED HIM TO ANIMATION BY RUBBING HIM WITH BRANDY AND FORCING HIM TO SWALLOW A SMALL QUANTITY. BY SLOW DEGREES, HE RECOVERED AND ATE A LITTLE SOUP, AND THEN FELL INTO A DEEP SLEEP.
TWO DAYS PASSED IN THIS MANNER BEFORE HE WAS ABLE TO SPEAK, AND I OFTEN FEARED THAT HIS SUFFERINGS HAD DEPRIVED HIM OF UNDERSTANDING... WE WISHED TO ASK HIM A THOUSAND QUESTIONS.
ONCE HE WOKE, MY LIEUTENANT ASKED WHY HE HAD COME SO FAR UPON THE ICE IN SO STRANGE A VEHICLE.
9


TO... TO SEEK ONE WHO FLED FROM ME.
AND DID THE MAN WHOM YOU PURSUED TRAVEL IN THE SAME FASHION? IS HE OF LARGE STATURE?
Y... YES! HOW DID YOU KNOW?
THEN I FANCY WE HAVE SEEN HIM, FOR THE DAY BEFORE WE PICKED YOU UP WE SAW SOME DOGS DRAWING A SLEDGE, WITH A MAN IN IT, ACROSS THE ICE.
IT'S *HIM!* IT MUST BE HIM!
THE MAN FELL BACK TO SLEEP, BUT NOT BEFORE HAVING PROMISED TO TELL US HIS SINGULAR STORY...
I HAVE RESOLVED TO RECORD HIS WORDS IN MY JOURNAL. THE STORY OF THIS RESCUE MUST BE STRANGE AND HARROWING AND POIGNANT JUDGING BY THE WRETCHED CONDITION OF THE MAN!

2

Ingolstadt

Victor Frankenstein

VERY EARLY ON, I WAS PREY TO A VEHEMENT PASSION: EXPLORE THE PHYSICAL AND METAPHYSICAL SECRETS OF THE WORLD. NOT THE STRUCTURE OF LANGUAGES, NOR THE CODE OF GOVERNMENTS, NOR THE POLITICS OF VARIOUS STATES. IT WAS THE SECRETS OF HEAVEN AND EARTH THAT I DESIRED TO LEARN. FROM A VERY EARLY AGE, I WAS, WITH ALL MY ARDOUR, DEEPLY SMITTEN WITH THE THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE. THE EARNEST RESEARCH TO LEARN THE HIDDEN LAWS OF NATURE GUIDED MY LIFE.

WHEN I WAS 13 YEARS OF AGE, I CHANCED TO FIND A VOLUME OF THE WORKS OF **HEINRICH CORNELIUS AGRIPPA DE NETTESHEIM...**

THIS STUDY, *DE OCCULTA PHILOSOPHIA* (1531), EXCITED ME MORE THAN I CAN EXPRESS...

THIS EXTRAORDINARY BOOK TALKED OF NATURAL MAGIC. A NEW LIGHT SEEMED TO DAWN UPON MY MIND, THE FATAL IMPULSE THAT WOULD LATER LEAD TO MY RUIN...

I THEN DEVOURED **PARACELSUS AND ALBERTUS MAGNUS**, AND LEARNED ABOUT ALCHEMY AND THE MASTERS OF THE OCCULT. THAT IS WHERE I READ OF THE LEGEND OF PARACELSUS AND HOW HE HAD DISCOVERED HOW TO BRING SMALL BEINGS BACK TO LIFE AND EVEN SUCCEEDED IN CREATING A HOMUNCULUS WITHOUT THE HELP OF A HUMAN WOMB.

THE DISCIPLE OF MEN WHO HAD DEEPLY PENETRATED THE SECRETS OF NATURE... WHILE I FOLLOWED THE ROUTINE OF EDUCATION IN THE SCHOOLS OF GENEVA, I WAS, TO A GREAT DEGREE, SELF-TAUGHT WITH REGARD TO MY FAVOURITE STUDIES.

14

I ENTERED INTO THE SEARCH OF THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE AND THE ELIXIR OF LIFE. I DREAMED OF THE GLORY THAT WOULD ATTEND THE DISCOVERY IF I COULD BANISH DISEASE FROM THE HUMAN FRAME AND RENDER MAN INVULNERABLE.

I FULLY OCCUPIED MYSELF WITH EXPLODED SYSTEMS, MINGLING, LIKE AN INADEPT, A THOUSAND CONTRADICTORY THEORIES AND FLOUNDERING DESPERATELY IN A VERY SLOUGH OF MULTIFARIOUS KNOWLEDGE, GUIDED BY CHILDISH REASONING...

15

BRRRAAOOOMMMMM
BBAAOOOMMMMMMMM
WHEN I WAS 15, I WITNESSED A MOST VIOLENT AND TERRIBLE THUNDERSTORM. IT ADVANCED FROM BEHIND THE MOUNTAINS OF JURA, AND THE THUNDER AND LIGHTNING BURST AT ONCE WITH FRIGHTFUL LOUDNESS FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS OF THE HEAVENS.
ON A SUDDEN, I BEHELD A STREAM OF FIRE ISSUE FROM AN OLD AND BEAUTIFUL OAK WHICH STOOD ABOUT TWENTY YARDS FROM OUR HOUSE...
KRAAACKKK
16

!
NOTHING REMAINED OF THE OAK BUT A BLASTED STUMP AND THIN RIBBONS OF WOOD!
BEFORE THIS, I WAS NOT UNACQUAINTED WITH THE MORE OBVIOUS LAWS OF ELECTRICITY! A NEW SUBJECT OPENED ITSELF UP TO ME! I AT ONCE GAVE UP MY FORMER OCCUPATIONS, SET DOWN NATURAL HISTORY AND ALL ITS PROGENY AS A DEFORMED AND ABORTIVE CREATION...
AT 17, I LEFT GENEVA TO BECOME A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF INGOLSTADT, IN GERMANY.
17

AT UNIVERSITY, I MET **MR. WALDMAN**, PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY. DURING ONE OF HIS LECTURES, HE TALKED OF MODERN MASTERS, WHO, ACCORDING TO HIM, PERFORMED MIRACLES.

THEY PENETRATE INTO THE RECESSES OF NATURE AND SHOW HOW SHE WORKS IN HER HIDING PLACES.... HE SANG THE PRAISES OF THESE MEN WHO COULD COMMAND THE THUNDERS OF HEAVEN, MIMIC THE EARTHQUAKE, AND EVEN MOCK THE INVISIBLE WORLD...
HIS LECTURE ECHOED THE IMPERIOUS DESIRES THAT ANIMATED ME... I DREAMED OF BEING ONE WHO WILL PIONEER A NEW WAY AND UNFOLD TO THE WORLD THE DEEPEST MYSTERIES OF CREATION.

18

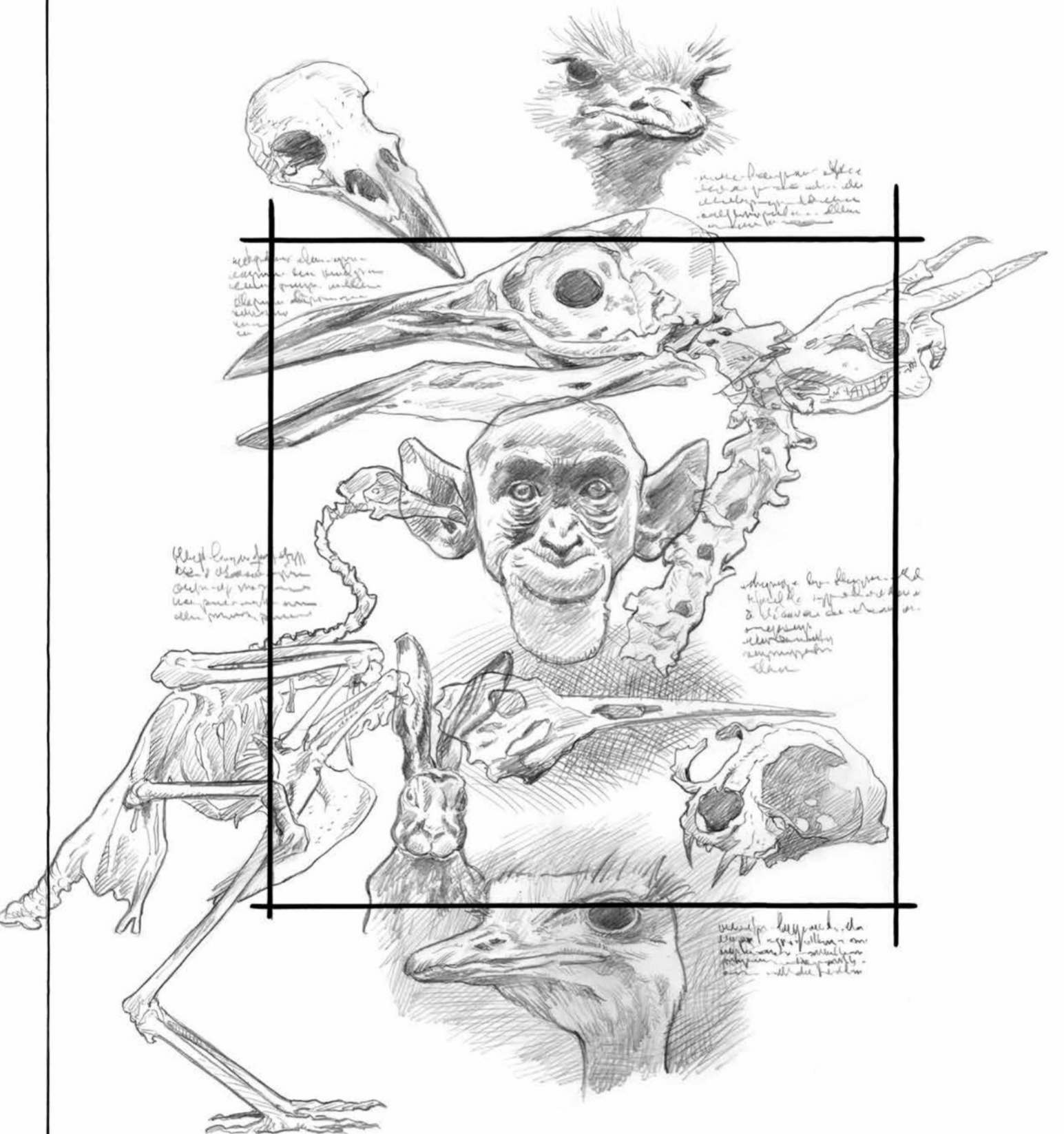
I PAID MR. WALDMAN A VISIT. I GAVE HIM THE ACCOUNT OF MY FORMER PURSUITS AND MY INTEREST IN CORNELIUS AGRIPPA AND PARACELSUS. HE DID NOT REACT WITH CONTEMPT AS OTHERS HAD... HE, IN FACT, PRAISED THEM HOWEVER ERRONEOUSLY DIRECTED WERE THEIR CONCLUSIONS, WITH: THE LABOURS OF MEN OF GENIUS SCARCELY EVER FAIL IN ULTIMATELY TURNING TO THE SOLID ADVANTAGE OF MANKIND.
HE ADVISED ME TO APPLY MYSELF TO EVERY BRANCH OF NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, INCLUDING MATHEMATICS. HE THEN TOOK ME INTO HIS LABORATORY AND EXPLAINED I COULD USE IT WHEN I SHOULD HAVE ADVANCED FAR ENOUGH IN THE SCIENCE NOT TO DERANGE THEIR MECHANISM. HE ALSO GAVE ME THE LIST OF BOOKS TO STUDY.
FROM THIS DAY, NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, AND PARTICULARLY CHEMISTRY, BECAME NEARLY MY SOLE OCCUPATION.

I READ WITH ARDOUR THOSE WORKS, SO FULL OF GENIUS AND DISCRIMINATION WHICH MODERN INQUIRERS HAVE WRITTEN ON THESE SUBJECTS. I ATTENDED THE LECTURES. I WAS ENGAGED, HEART AND SOUL, IN THE PURSUIT OF MY DISCOVERIES AND WITH SUCH ZEAL THAT MY PROGRESS WAS RAPID. MR. WALDMAN'S INSTRUCTION AIDED ME IN A THOUSAND WAYS, HE SMOOTHED FOR ME THE PATH OF KNOWLEDGE AND MADE THE MOST ABSTRUSE INQUIRIES CLEAR AND FACILE TO MY APPREHENSION.

SVEN, MY FAITHFUL SWEDISH VALET, CAME WITH ME TO INGOLSTADT... HE WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED ME TO THE BOWELS OF HELL IF NEED BE... ALWAYS AT MY SIDE, HE WAS A TRULY INDISPENSABLE FACTOTUM. HE ALLOWED ME TO DEVOTE MYSELF TO MY EXPERIMENTS WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT EVERYDAY LIFE.

TWO YEARS PASSED WHEN I WAS OBSESSED WITH MY WORK, FASCINATED BY SCIENCE. I SOON HAD LITTLE MORE TO LEARN FROM MY PROFESSORS... I NEVERTHELESS CONTINUED MY QUEST TO EXAMINE THE CAUSES OF LIFE WHICH NO ONE HAD RESOLVED. THUS, I APPLIED MYSELF TO PHYSIOLOGY.

3



The Experiment

I BECAME INTERESTED IN **GALVANI'S DISCOVERIES** ON ELECTRICITY. IN 1745, **EWALD VON KLEIST** HAD DESIGNED WHAT WAS LATER CALLED THE LEYDEN JAR, ANCESTOR OF THE CAPACITOR, WHICH HAD THE POWER TO STORE ELECTRICITY...

THE ELECTRIC CHARGES OF THE LEYDEN JAR COULD CAUSE STRONG MUSCLE CONTRACTIONS... I WONDERED: COULD THIS GO AS FAR AS CURING PARALYSIS AND OTHER DISEASES? WOULD APOPLEXY OR EPILEPSY FIND THEIR CAUSES IN ELECTRICAL DISORDERS?

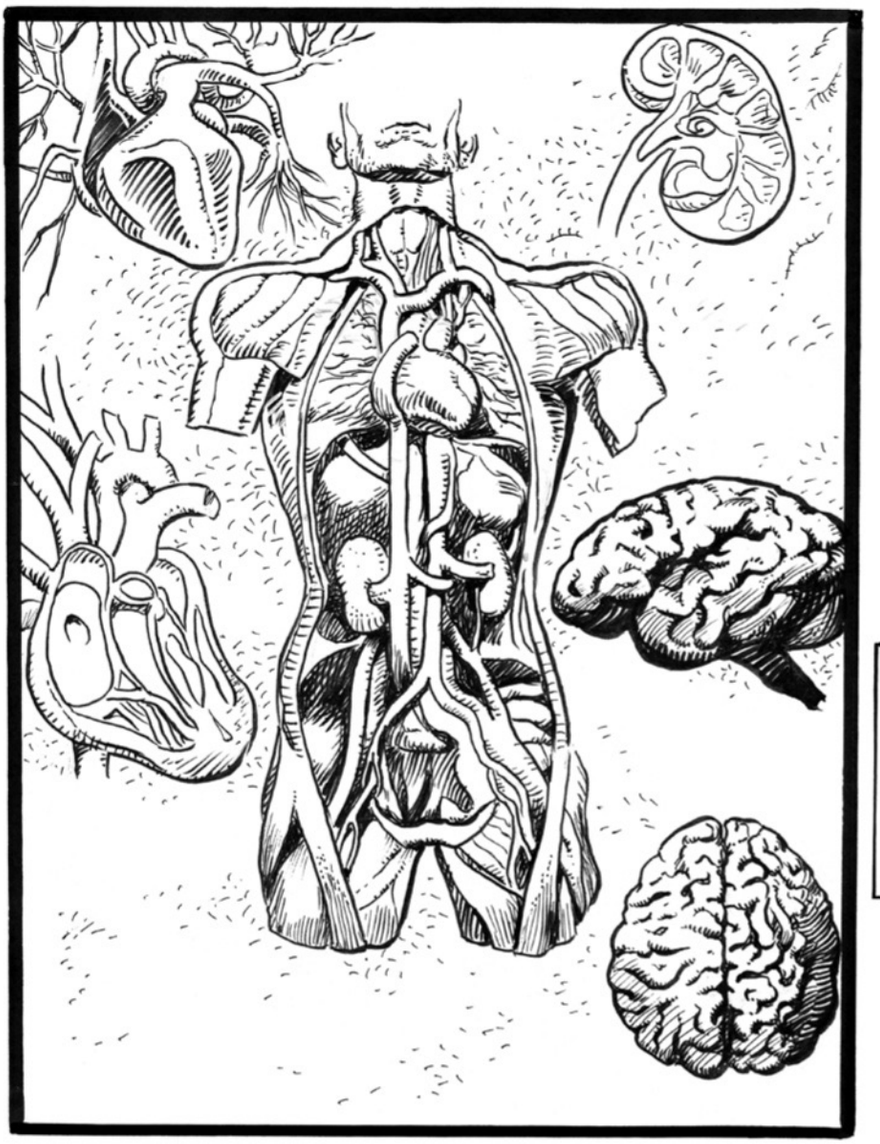
A NEW FIELD OF EXPLORATION WAS EMERGING.

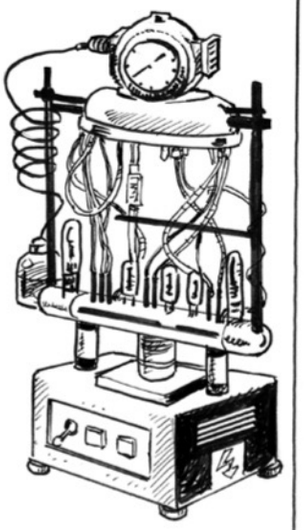
QUESTIONS ASSAILED ME: COULD ALTERATIONS IN ATMOSPHERIC ELECTRICITY HAVE AN INFLUENCE ON US?

WHAT ARE THE RESPECTIVE VIRTUES OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ELECTRICITY?

I INCREASED TRIALS AND EXPERIMENTS...

I BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH THE SCIENCE OF ANATOMY... I OBSERVE THE NATURAL DECAY AND CORRUPTION OF THE HUMAN BODY... TO EXAMINE THE CAUSES OF LIFE, WE MUST FIRST HAVE RECOURSE TO DEATH....

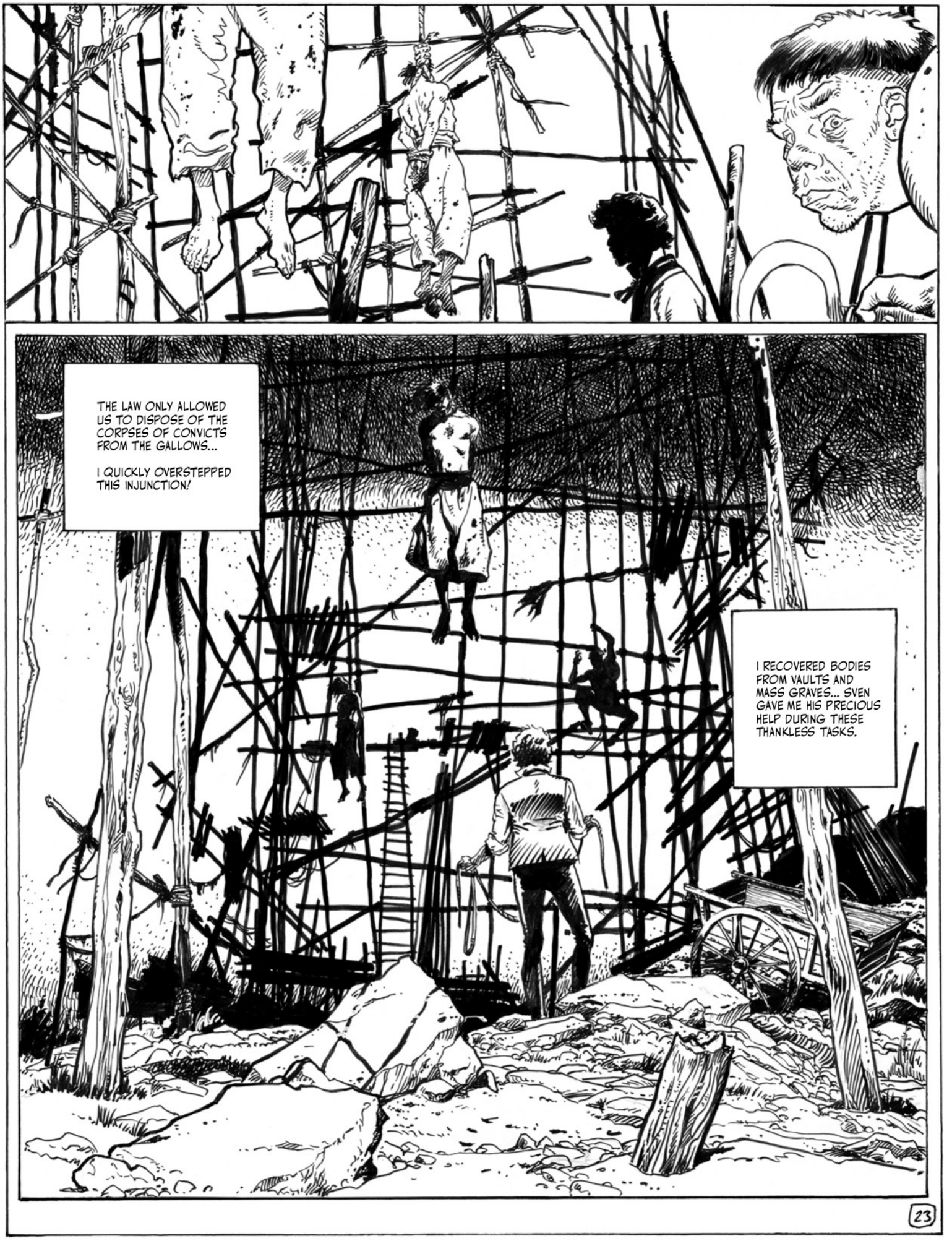




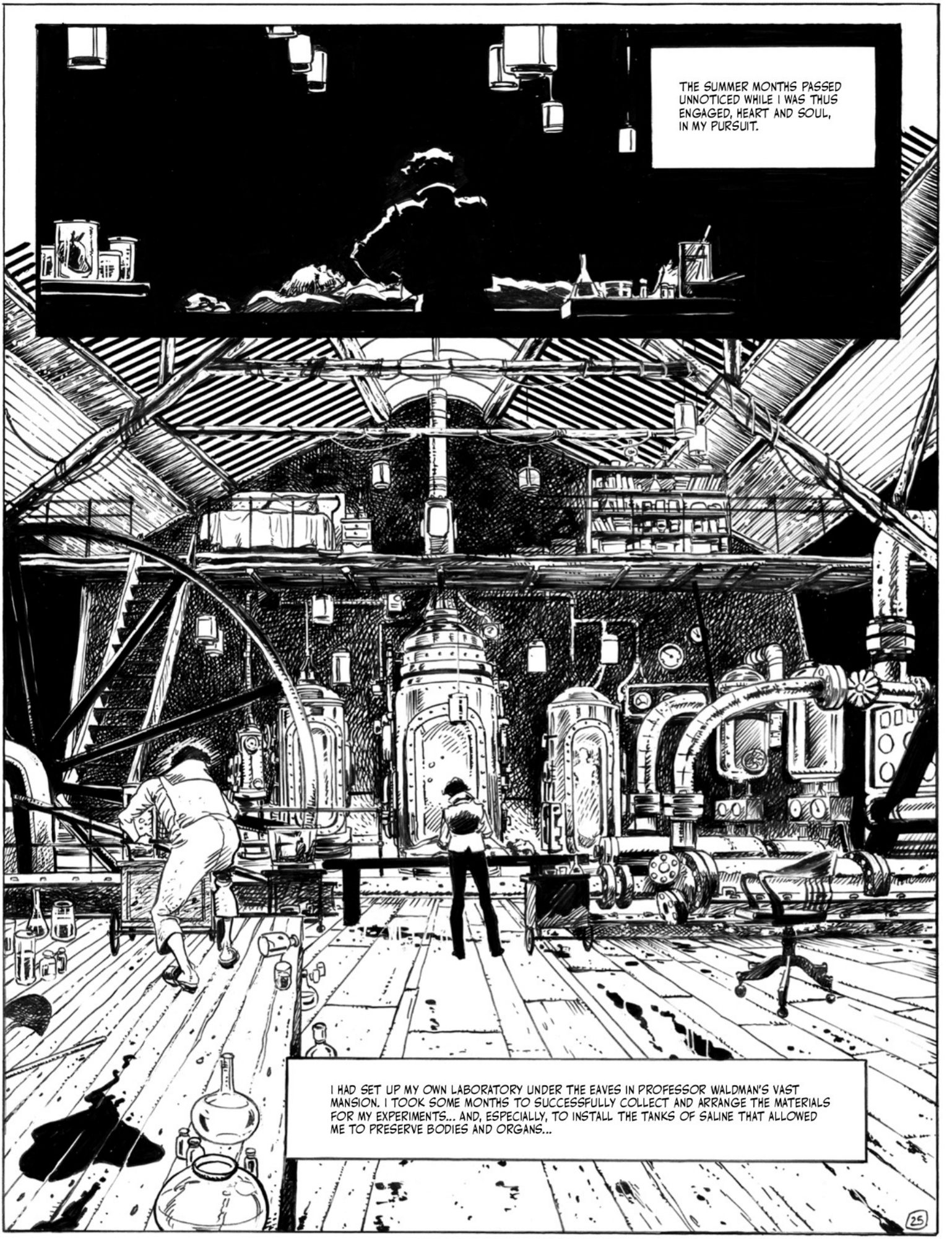
I FEVERISHLY STUDIED THE EVOLUTION OF THE DEGRADATION OF TISSUE WHICH, FROM BEING THE SEAT OF BEAUTY AND STRENGTH, HAD BECOME FOOD FOR THE WORM!

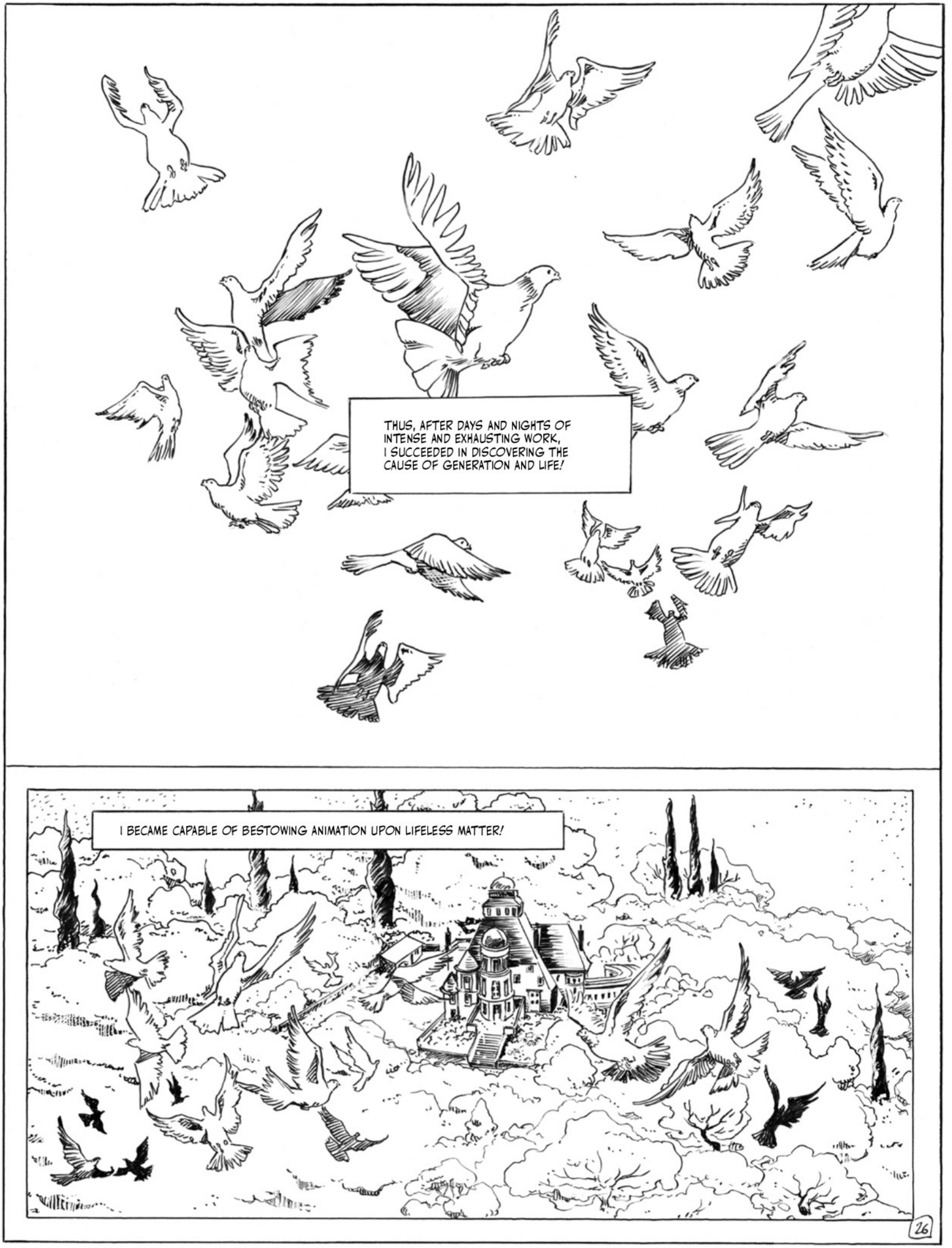
AT THIS STAGE, TO ADVANCE IN MY RESEARCH, I NEEDED SUITABLE MATERIALS...

I NOW HAD TO EXPERIMENT ON HUMAN CORPSES!

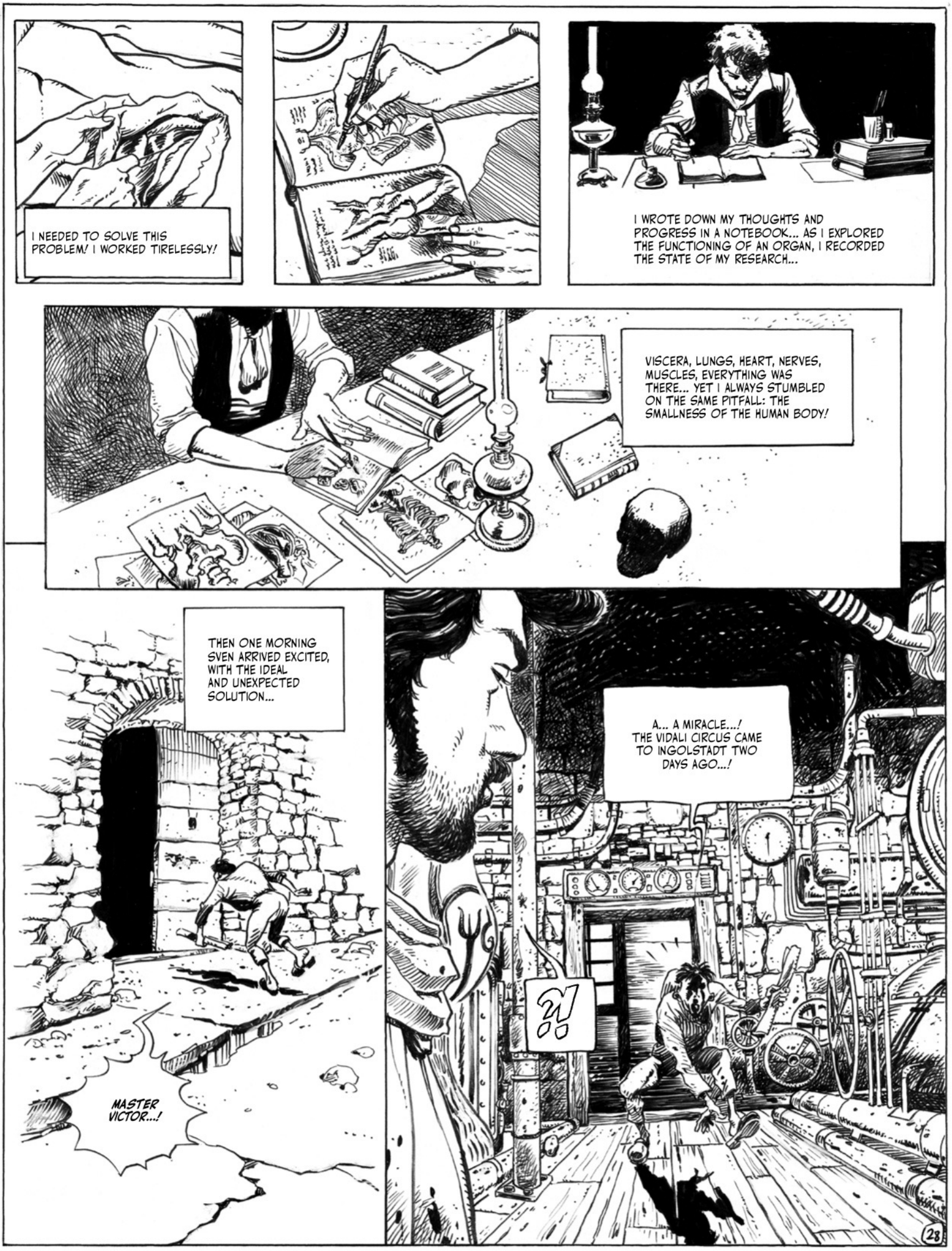

THE LAW ONLY ALLOWED US TO DISPOSE OF THE CORPSES OF CONVICTS FROM THE GALLOWS...
I QUICKLY OVERSTEPPED THIS INJUNCTION!
I RECOVERED BODIES FROM VAULTS AND MASS GRAVES... SVEN GAVE ME HIS PRECIOUS HELP DURING THESE THANKLESS TASKS.
23

NOTHING PUT ME OFF...
MY EDUCATION HAD PRESERVED ME FROM ANY FORM OF SUPERSTITION...
I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS OR SPIRITS! DARKNESS HAD NO EFFECT UPON MY FANCY, NOR DID CHURCHYARDS.
24


THE SUMMER MONTHS PASSED UNNOTICED WHILE I WAS THUS ENGAGED, HEART AND SOUL, IN MY PURSUIT.
I HAD SET UP MY OWN LABORATORY UNDER THE EAVES IN PROFESSOR WALDMAN'S VAST MANSION. I TOOK SOME MONTHS TO SUCCESSFULLY COLLECT AND ARRANGE THE MATERIALS FOR MY EXPERIMENTS... AND, ESPECIALLY, TO INSTALL THE TANKS OF SALINE THAT ALLOWED ME TO PRESERVE BODIES AND ORGANS...
25


THUS, AFTER DAYS AND NIGHTS OF INTENSE AND EXHAUSTING WORK, I SUCCEEDED IN DISCOVERING THE CAUSE OF GENERATION AND LIFE!
I BECAME CAPABLE OF BESTOWING ANIMATION UPON LIFELESS MATTER!
26

FROM THE MIDST OF THIS DARKNESS, A SUDDEN LIGHT BROKE IN UPON ME!
MY DISCOVERY WAS STAGGERING, DIZZYING!
SO MANY MEN OF GENIUS HAD PURSUED THE SAME SCIENCE, I ALONE DISCOVERED THE SECRET.
YET, TO PREPARE A FRAME FOR THE RECEPTION OF IT, WITH ALL ITS INTRICACIES OF FIBRES, MUSCLES, AND VEINS, STILL REMAINED A WORK OF INCONCEIVABLE DIFFICULTY AND LABOUR!
BUT NOTHING COULD DAMPEN MY DETERMINATION... I BEGAN THE CREATION OF A HUMAN BEING.... AS THE MINUTENESS OF THE PARTS FORMED A GREAT HINDRANCE TO MY SPEED, I RESOLVED TO MAKE THE BEING OF A GIGANTIC STATURE!
BUT HOW TO SHAPE A LARGER-THAN-LIFE INDIVIDUAL FROM ORDINARY BODIES? I WANTED TO MODEL A HARMONIOUS AND WELL-PROPORTIONED BEING... BUT HOW?
27


I NEEDED TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM! I WORKED TIRELESSLY!
I WROTE DOWN MY THOUGHTS AND PROGRESS IN A NOTEBOOK... AS I EXPLORED THE FUNCTIONING OF AN ORGAN, I RECORDED THE STATE OF MY RESEARCH...
VISCERA, LUNGS, HEART, NERVES, MUSCLES, EVERYTHING WAS THERE... YET I ALWAYS STUMBLED ON THE SAME PITFALL: THE SMALLNESS OF THE HUMAN BODY!
THEN ONE MORNING SVEN ARRIVED EXCITED, WITH THE IDEAL AND UNEXPECTED SOLUTION...
A... A MIRACLE...! THE VIDALI CIRCUS CAME TO INGOLSTADT TWO DAYS AGO...!
MASTER VICTOR...!
28

LOOK! I BROUGHT YOU ONE OF THEIR FLY-SHEETS!
ONE OF THE MAIN ATTRACTIONS WAS A GREEK GIANT, AND HE'S HAD A HORRIBLE ACCIDENT!
VIDALI
CYRK
AND... WHAT'S IT TO DO WITH ME?
LE GRAND CIRQUE VIDALI PRESENTS:
THE GREEK COLOSSUS
THE BIGGEST MAN IN THE WORLD!
THE BIG TENT POLE COLLAPSED AS THE MARQUEE WAS BEING ERECTED, AND THE GIANT WAS CRUSHED! HIS SKULL WAS CRUSHED...! THROUGHOUT THE CITY, TALK IS OF NOTHING BUT THIS TERRIBLE MISFORTUNE...!
...HE WILL BE BURIED RIGHT HERE IN INGOLSTADT LATE TOMORROW MORNING...!
OH! I SEE YOUR MEANING!
29

THE CIRCUS OFFERED A LAST PARADE TO ITS DECEASED COLOSSUS... THE ORCHESTRA PLAYED A PARTICULARLY MOURNFUL FUNERAL MARCH...
IT WAS UNDER A HEAVY SKY AND A HEAVY HEART THAT THE ACROBATS PARADED IN THE COLD, ACCOMPANYING THEIR FRIEND TO WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS HIS FINAL RESTING PLACE...

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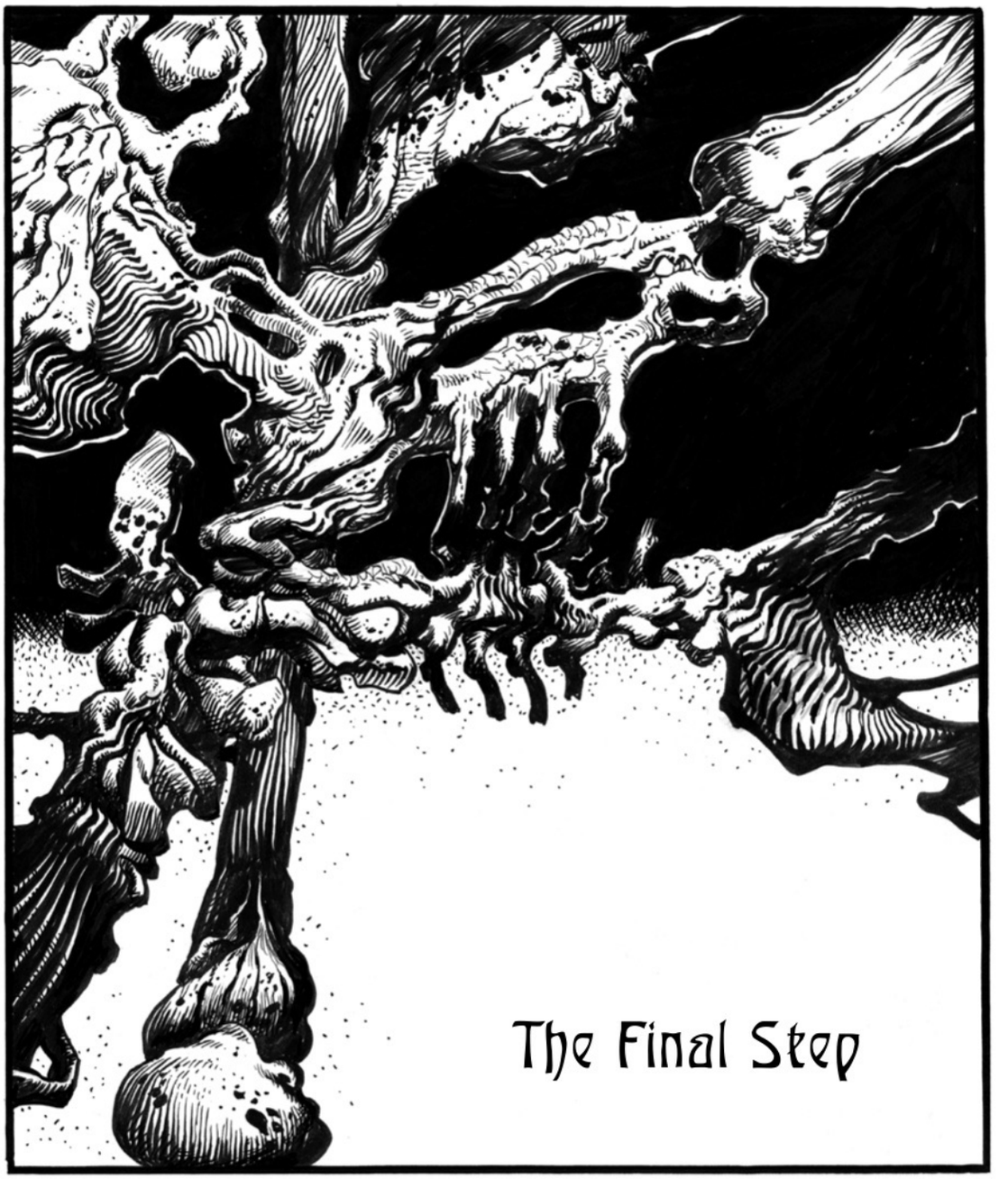
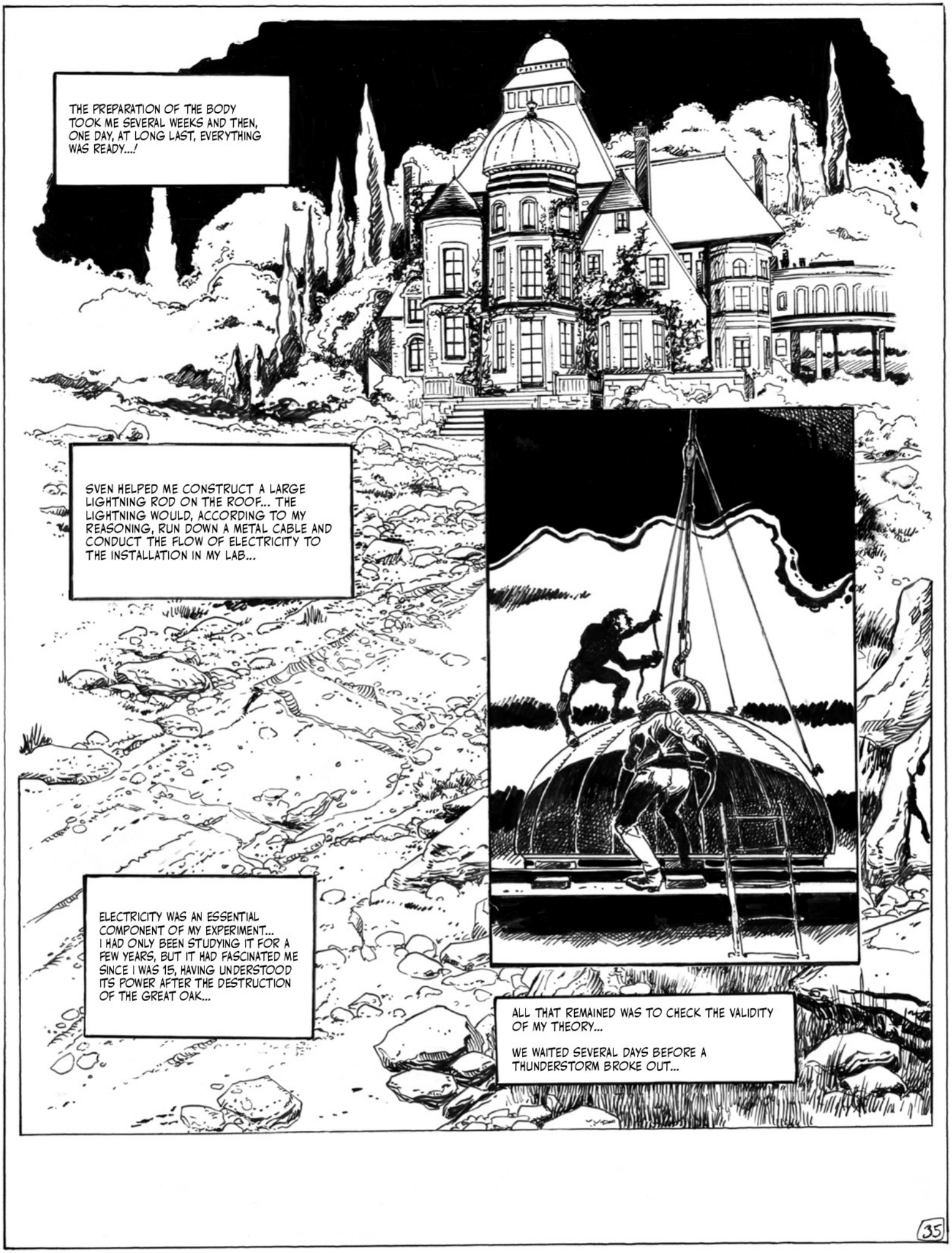


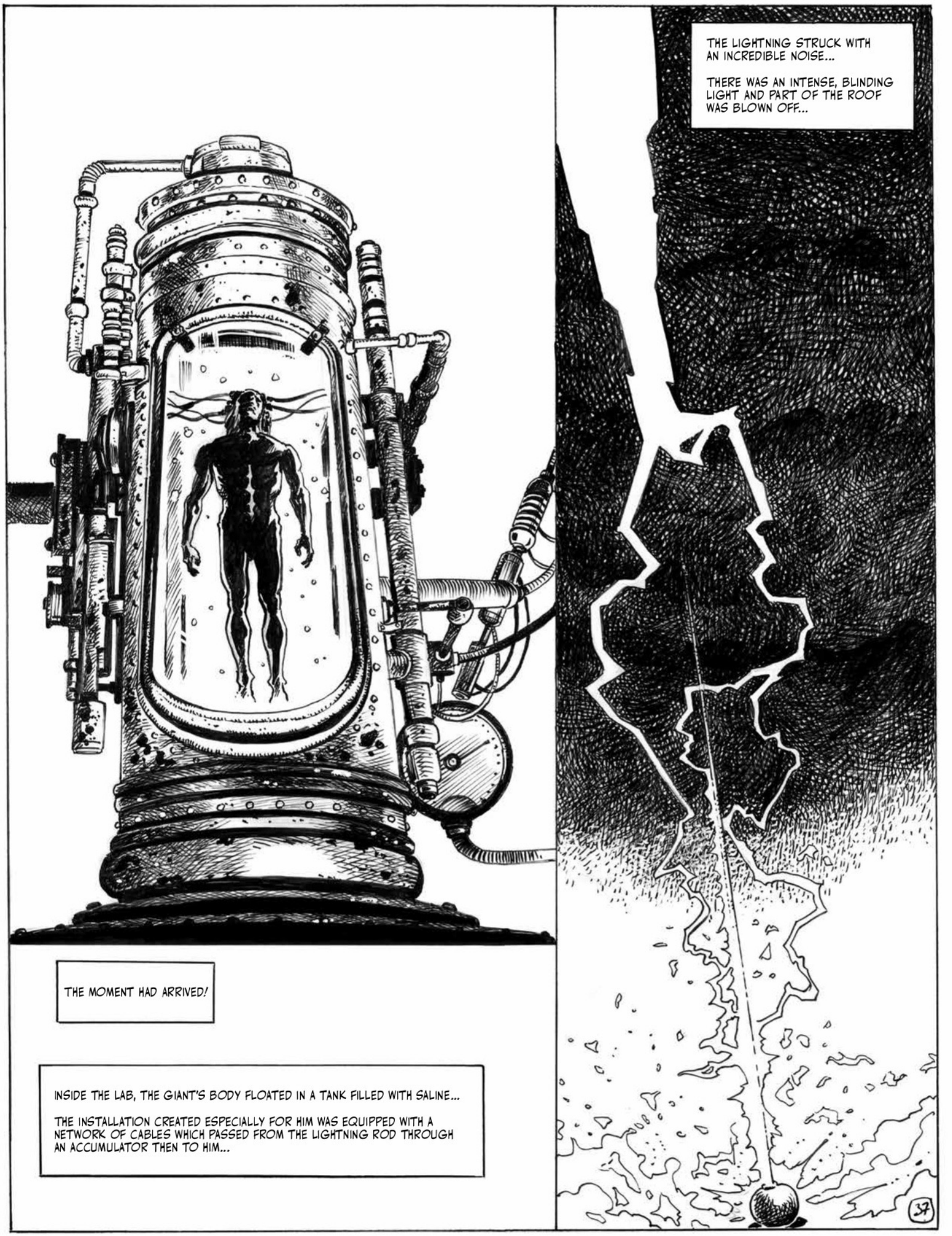
32

THE NEXT NIGHT, WELL PAST MIDNIGHT, SVEN AND I WENT TO UNEARTH THE COLOSSUS... I WAS IN A STATE OF ELATION, CLOSE TO EUPHORIA...
...ON THE VERGE OF ACHIEVING THIS DESIRED GOAL!
WE STRUGGLED TO HOIST OUR MAN ONTO THE HANDCART, AND EVEN MORE SO CARRYING HIM UP TO THE LAB!
HIS SKULL AND FACE WERE SUNK IN... HIS CHEST, TOO, HAD BEEN CRUSHED, HIS RIBS BROKEN... HIS LIVER HAD BURST, AS HAD HIS OTHER VITAL ORGANS!
THE DAMAGE HE HAD SUFFERED WAS EXTENSIVE...!
I UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS WAS NOT THE END OF MY CHALLENGES. BUT HOW COULD I PASS UP SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY!
I HAD AT MY DISPOSAL A PERFECT BODY WHICH, SHOULD I MANAGE TO RECONSTITUTE IT, WOULD REVEAL MY GENIUS TO THE WORLD!
33

THE DAYS AND NIGHTS THAT FOLLOWED WERE EXHILARATING TO THE HIGHEST DEGREE... I BEGAN TO WORK WITH A FIERCE RELENTLESSNESS ON THE MUTILATED CORPSE OF MY GIANT...
I CARVED, SAWED, CUT INTO THE FLESH, LIGATURED BUNDLES OF NERVES AND MUSCLES...
I SEWED UP VISCERA, REPLACED ALL THE DAMAGED ORGANS...
THE CULMINATION OF MY WORK, ONCE I HAD REMODELLED THE MAN'S SHATTERED SKULL, WAS TO PLACE A MAGNIFICENT BRAIN SVEN HAD RECOVERED IN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE...
34


THE PREPARATION OF THE BODY TOOK ME SEVERAL WEEKS AND THEN, ONE DAY, AT LONG LAST, EVERYTHING WAS READY...!
SVEN HELPED ME CONSTRUCT A LARGE LIGHTNING ROD ON THE ROOF... THE LIGHTNING WOULD, ACCORDING TO MY REASONING, RUN DOWN A METAL CABLE AND CONDUCT THE FLOW OF ELECTRICITY TO THE INSTALLATION IN MY LAB...
ELECTRICITY WAS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF MY EXPERIMENT... I HAD ONLY BEEN STUDYING IT FOR A FEW YEARS, BUT IT HAD FASCINATED ME SINCE I WAS 15, HAVING UNDERSTOOD ITS POWER AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF THE GREAT OAK...
ALL THAT REMAINED WAS TO CHECK THE VALIDITY OF MY THEORY...
WE WAITED SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE A THUNDERSTORM BROKE OUT...
35

WE WATCHED THE CLOUDS PASSING ABOVE OUR HEADS ANXIOUSLY,...
STILL NOTHING, MASTER VICTOR...! THE WIND IS BLOWING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION! IT'S NOT GOING TO RAIN HERE!
UNTIL FINALLY, ONE NIGHT...
THIS ONE SEEMS TO ME TO BE THE STORM WE NEED!
WE RUSHED TO THE LAB...
BRAAOOM
A HUGE STORM HAD BROKEN... UNLEASHING ITS ELEMENTS LIKE I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE! AS THOUGH IT WAS THE END OF THE WORLD!
THE DARKNESS WAS STREAKED WITH DOZENS OF LIGHTNING BOLTS... THE THUNDER RUMBLED; THE LONG-AWAITED RAIN WAS FALLING WITH A RARE VIOLENCE!
36


THE LIGHTNING STRUCK WITH AN INCREDIBLE NOISE...
THERE WAS AN INTENSE, BLINDING LIGHT AND PART OF THE ROOF WAS BLOWN OFF...
37
THE MOMENT HAD ARRIVED!
INSIDE THE LAB, THE GIANT'S BODY FLOATED IN A TANK FILLED WITH SALINE...
THE INSTALLATION CREATED ESPECIALLY FOR HIM WAS EQUIPPED WITH A NETWORK OF CABLES WHICH PASSED FROM THE LIGHTNING ROD THROUGH AN ACCUMULATOR THEN TO HIM...

BLAMM
TiiGLLLZZZZZZZ
KABOOOMMMM
!!
KAAOOMMM
38

I REMAINED PARALYZED FOR A LONG TIME, FLABBERGASTED...

MY CREATURE, THROWN FROM HIS TANK, LAY INERT ON THE GROUND, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DEBRIS...

TIME HAD FROZEN...
I STOOD THERE, IN MY PARTIALLY DESTROYED LAB, CONTEMPLATING THE SCENE...

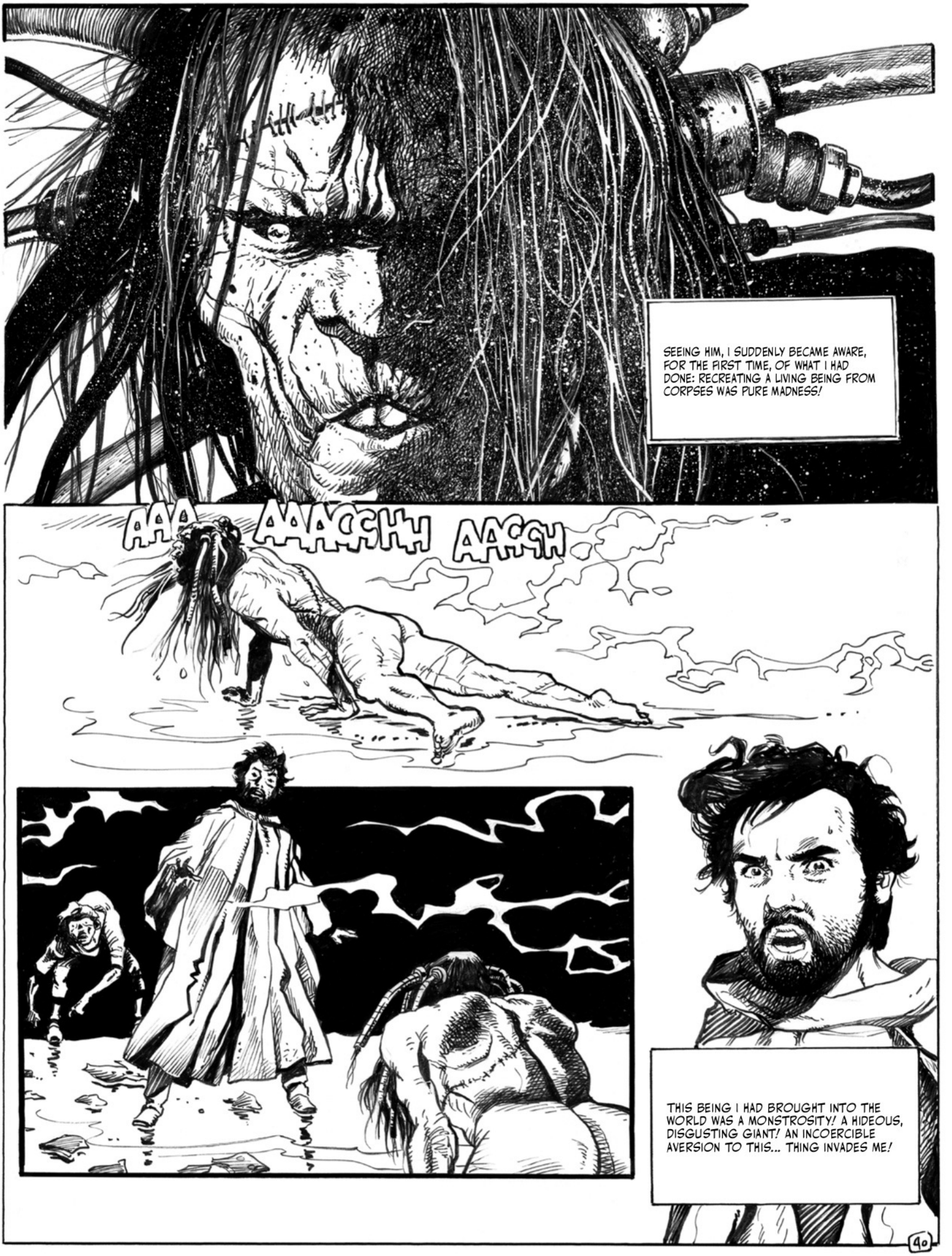
MONTHS OF EFFORT NEEDED TO CONSTRUCT IT HAD JUST BEEN WIPED OUT BY THE EXPLOSION! THE SHOCK WAS SEVERE!

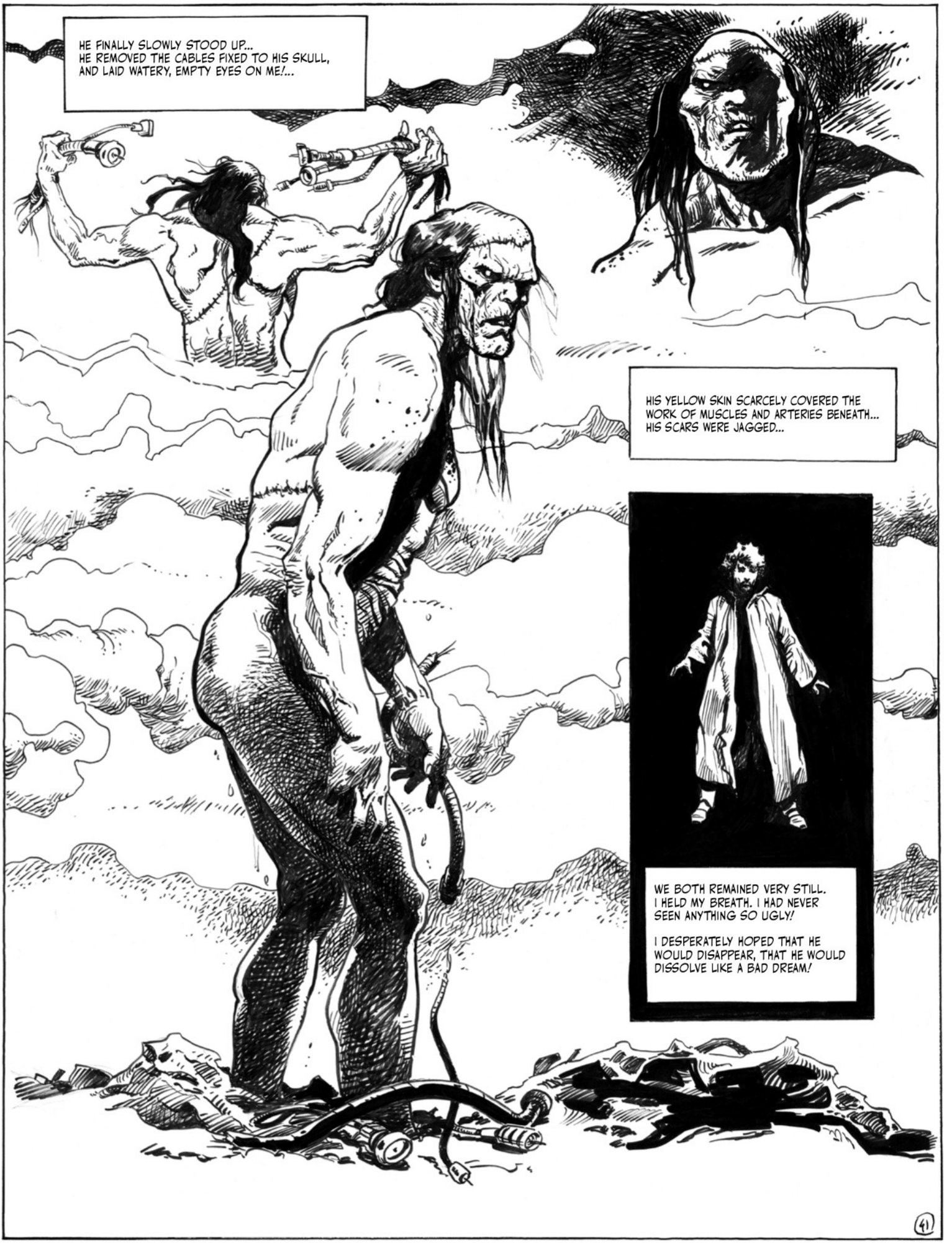
IT IS THEN, IN HORROR, THAT I SAW MY CREATURE MOVE!

HE TOOK IN A DEEP BREATH, TWISTED AND SHOOK WITH VIOLENT CONVULSIONS...

AAARRRRHHH

SOUNDS THAT WERE NOT HUMAN CAME OUT OF HIS THROAT AND CHILLED MY BLOOD!


SEEING HIM, I SUDDENLY BECAME AWARE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, OF WHAT I HAD DONE: RECREATING A LIVING BEING FROM CORPSES WAS PURE MADNESS!
AAAA
AAAAGGHH
AAGGH
THIS BEING I HAD BROUGHT INTO THE WORLD WAS A MONSTROSITY! A HIDEOUS, DISGUSTING GIANT! AN INCOERCIBLE AVERSION TO THIS... THING INVADES ME!
40


HE FINALLY SLOWLY STOOD UP...
HE REMOVED THE CABLES FIXED TO HIS SKULL, AND LAID WATERY, EMPTY EYES ON ME!...
HIS YELLOW SKIN SCARCELY COVERED THE WORK OF MUSCLES AND ARTERIES BENEATH... HIS SCARS WERE JAGGED...
WE BOTH REMAINED VERY STILL. I HELD MY BREATH. I HAD NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO UGLY!
I DESPERATELY HOPED THAT HE WOULD DISAPPEAR, THAT HE WOULD DISSOLVE LIKE A BAD DREAM!
41

ONE HAND WAS STRETCHED OUT, SEEMINGLY TO DETAIN ME!
BUT I RECOILED IN TERROR, AND HE COULD ONLY GRAB THE CLOAK THAT COVERED ME.
DO NOT APPROACH ME, MONSTER!!!
THE NEXT MOMENT, I ESCAPED THE LAB AND RUSHED DOWNSTAIRS LIKE A LUNATIC...!
I RUSHED OUT OF THE HOUSE WITHOUT LOOKING BACK... I PASSED THE NIGHT WRETCHEDLY.... MY PULSE BEAT QUICKLY... DREAMS THAT HAD BEEN MY FOOD AND PLEASANT REST FOR SO LONG HAD NOW BECOME A HELL TO ME... THE CHANGE WAS SO RAPID, I FELT FAINT!
42

I TRAVERSED THE STREETS WITHOUT ANY CLEAR CONCEPTION OF WHERE I WAS OR WHAT I WAS DOING... I CROSSED THE SUBURBS, THEN WANDERED THROUGH THE DESERTED STREETS OF INGOLSTADT, SINISTER AT NIGHT...
I THINK I WAS FEVERISH. I WASN'T EVEN AWARE OF SVEN STANDING RESPECTFULLY A FEW STEPS AWAY FROM ME. HE COULDN'T HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE EMOTIONAL MAELSTROM I WAS DROWNING IN...!
I WAS AFRAID OF ENCOUNTERING THE CREATURE AT EVERY STREET CORNER... MORNING, DISMAL AND WET, AT LENGTH DAWNED... MY STEPS LED ME BACK TO MY LAB. THE RAIN HAD STOPPED, THE STORM HAD MOVED AWAY...
I DO NOT KNOW WHERE I FOUND THE COURAGE TO ENTER THE HOUSE AGAIN. HEART POUNDING, DEAD OF FEAR, I CLIMBED TO MY STUDIO...
THE FILTHY WRETCH HAD DISAPPEARED!
43

THE EXHAUSTION OF THESE LAST FEW WEEKS WITHOUT SLEEP OVERWHELMED ME... I COLLAPSED ON THE FLOOR. SVEN CARRIED ME TO MY BED!
M... MASTER VICTOR!
I WAS ILL A LONG TIME...
SVEN TOOK CARE OF EVERYTHING, SOON ASSISTED BY MY GREAT FRIEND HENRY... SHORTLY AFTER THE FATAL EVENTS I HAVE JUST RECOUNTED, HENRY CLERVAL HAD UNEXPECTEDLY ARRIVED FROM SWITZERLAND. HE HAD COME TO VISIT ME AT MY FATHER'S REQUEST.
SEEING HIM AGAIN AFTER YEARS OF ESTRANGEMENT AWAKENED FORGOTTEN EMOTIONS IN ME, AND FOR A MOMENT, I FORGOT MY HORROR AND MISFORTUNE...
YOUR FAMILY IS VERY WELL, AND VERY HAPPY, ONLY A LITTLE UNEASY THAT THEY HEAR FROM YOU SO SELDOM!
I MUST REMARK ON HOW VERY ILL YOU APPEAR, SO THIN AND PALE.
I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY ENGAGED IN MY RESEARCH, AND YOU HAVE GUESSED RIGHT, I HAVE FORGOTTEN MYSELF!
BUT THESE EMPLOYMENTS ARE NOW AT AN END, AND I AM AT LENGTH FREE.
44

ARCTIC OCEAN LATITUDE 90° NORTH TEMPERATURE -15°C. AUGUST 19TH...
MAY I HAVE SOME WATER, PLEASE?
OF COURSE!
YOU SHOULD REST NOW, MISTER FRANKENSTEIN! YOU WILL RESUME YOUR STORY TOMORROW...
NO, CAPTAIN, LET ME CONTINUE...
I DON'T KNOW IF TOMORROW I'LL STILL BE ABLE TO DO IT...
THUS, A NERVOUS FEVER HAD TAKEN HOLD OF ME!
I WAS, LIKE TODAY, EXTREMELY WEAK...
45

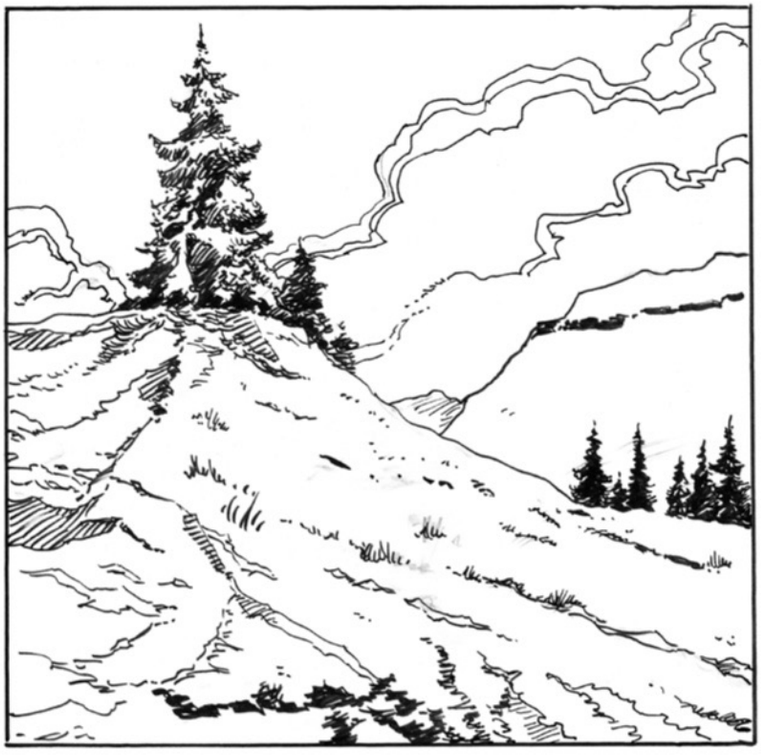
I WAS BEDRIDDEN FOR SEVERAL MONTHS... HENRY WAS MY NURSE ALL THIS TIME...
I COULDN'T BEAR TO THINK, LET ALONE ALLUDE, TO THE EVENTS OF THAT CURSED NIGHT! I DREADED THE MONSTER WOULD REAPPEAR, BUT I FEARED STILL MORE THAT HENRY SHOULD SEE HIM.
I KEPT QUIET ABOUT MY RESEARCH: I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL HIM ANYTHING ABOUT IT. BUT I RAVED INCESSANTLY CONCERNING HIM IN MOMENTS OF DELIRIUM, SO HAUNTED WAS I!
MY FRIEND HAD THE DELICACY NOT TO QUESTION ME...
BY VERY SLOW DEGREES, I RECOVERED THANKS TO THE DEDICATION OF SVEN AND MY DEAR CLERVAL...
IT WAS A DIVINE SPRING, AND THE SEASON AND EXCURSIONS IN THE ENVIRONS OF INGOLSTADT CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO MY CONVALESCENCE....
YOU HAVE DEVOTED ALL YOUR TIME TO ME THESE LAST FEW MONTHS! I FEEL BETTER AND BETTER!
DEAREST CLERVAL, HOW SHALL I EVER REPAY YOU?
46

AND IN A SHORT TIME, I BECAME AS CHEERFUL AS I ONCE WAS....
HE WAS GIFTED WITH A FERTILE IMAGINATION AND EXCELLED AT INVENTING TALES OF WONDERFUL FANCY AND PASSION!
HE REPEATED MY FAVOURITE POEMS, OR DREW ME OUT INTO ARGUMENTS.
MY FRIEND, WHO HAD WITNESSED MY SLOW RECOVERY, REJOICED IN MY NEWFOUND GAIETY...

YOU TOLD US HE WAS GONE, BUT... DID HE EVER REAPPEAR?
BUT... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR... CREATURE?
ALAS, CAPTAIN... HE RESURFACED ONE DAY, TO MY MISFORTUNE!
TELL US OF IT, MISTER VICTOR.
WELL, WHEN I ABANDONED HIM WITH MY FLIGHT, HE FOUND HIMSELF ALONE IN MY DESTROYED LAB...
IMAGINE, CAPTAIN: HE HAD JUST BEEN... BORN, SO TO SPEAK...
48

...THE BRAIN OF THE "MONSTER" WAS LIKE A BLANK PAGE... HE DIDN'T THINK... NOT YET... HE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING! WHO WAS HE? WHERE WAS HE? WHAT WAS HE DOING THERE, NAKED, IN THE DARK?
WHEN I MET HIM YEARS LATER, HE HAD LEARNED TO SPEAK, SURPRISINGLY WELL, TO GREAT ASTONISHMENT!
HE TOLD ME HIS INCREDIBLE STORY...
43

5



Born of Lightning

THE NIGHT WAS VERY DARK WHEN I WENT OUT... HOW LONG DID I STAY IN THE LAB? HOW DID I GET DOWN TO THE GROUND FLOOR? WHAT PROMPTED ME TO LEAVE THE HOUSE? NO ONE KNOWS, AND I DO NOT REMEMBER...

OUTSIDE, THE RAIN WAS FALLING HEAVILY... I COVERED MY BODY WITH THE CLOAK I HAD KEPT IN MY HAND AND WALKED INTO THE COLD DARKNESS, NOT KNOWING WHERE MY STEPS WERE TAKING ME...

RROAR!!

51

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF INGOLSTADT, A PACK OF STRAY DOGS ATTACKED ME!
AAAAAAAHHH!!
THEY HAD COME OUT OF THE DARKNESS AND SUDDENLY RUSHED AT ME! MY MERE PRESENCE HAD DRIVEN THEM MAD!
52

AAAAHHH
THE ASSAULT WAS VIOLENT, THE SHARP CANINES SLASHING MY FLESH DEEPLY!
AND THEN, AS THE FEROCIOUS BEASTS CONTINUED TO ATTACK ME, MY SURVIVAL INSTINCTS TOOK OVER... I SUDDENLY REVOLTED!
MY INITIAL SURPRISE WAS FOLLOWED BY RAGE!
53

MY LARGE FISTS BECAME MASSES THAT FELL INDISCRIMINATELY ON MY ATTACKERS...
I TURNED INTO A KILLING MACHINE!
CRAK!
CRACK!
I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAD HAPPENED... I WAS EXHAUSTED... ALL THE DOGS, EXCEPT FOR THE TWO OR THREE THAT HAD RUN AWAY, HAD PERISHED UNDER MY BATTERING!
54

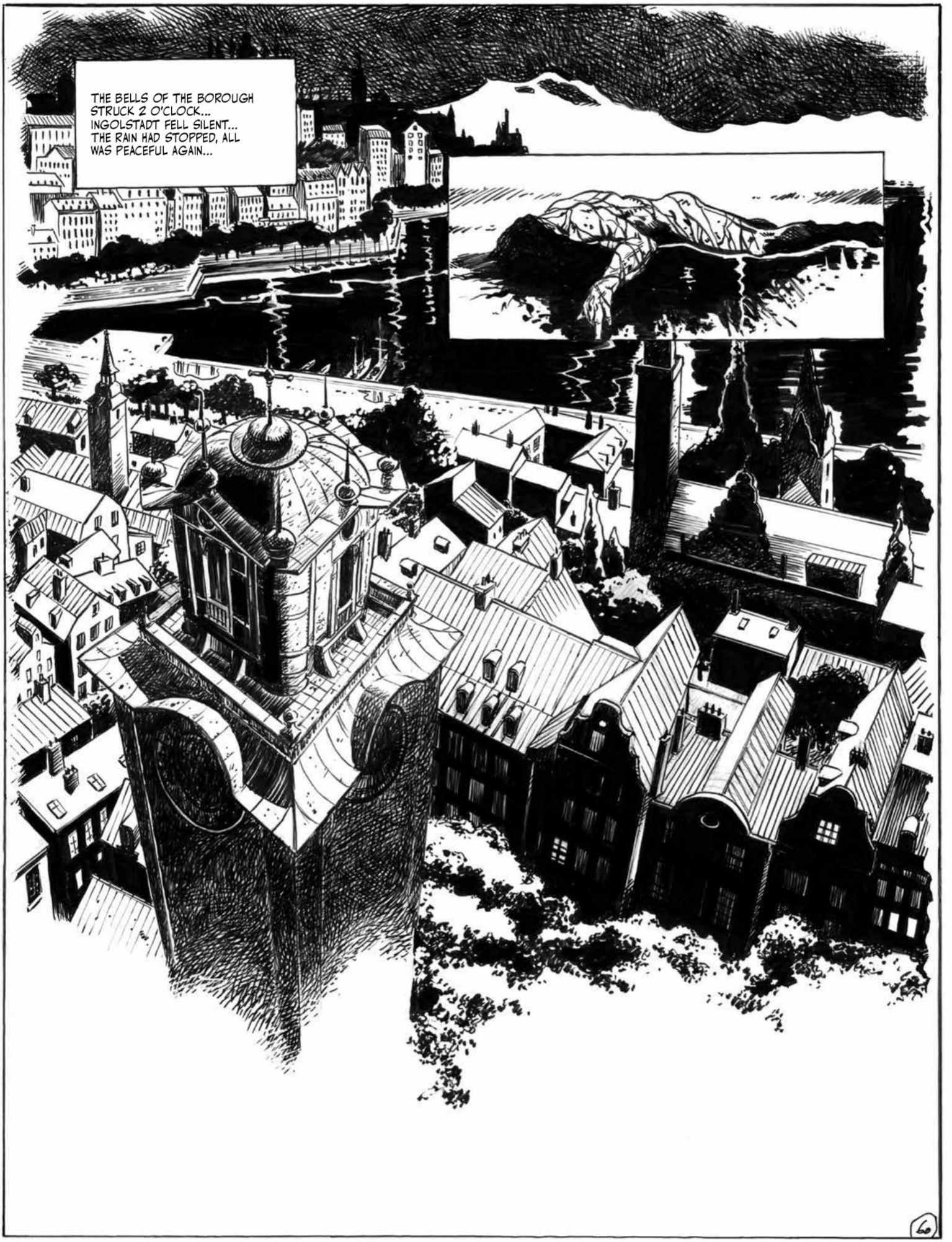
I STOOD IN THE UNENDING RAIN FOR A LONG TIME. I WATCHED THE BLOOD FROM MY WOUNDS AND MY TEARS MIX ON THE GROUND...
THEN I STARTED TO WALK AGAIN AND ENTERED THE DESERTED CITY...
I HAD BEEN BITTEN, CRUELLY LACERATED... MY WOUNDS MADE ME SUFFER...
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE PAIN... I WAS BLEEDING ALL OVER!
I WANDERED THE STREETS UNTIL THE RAIN STOPPED...
THEN, I MET MEN WHO WERE LEAVING THE TAVERNS OR INNS TO RETURN HOME... THESE MEN, WHO WERE INTOXICATED, DID NOT NOTICE ME AT FIRST.
55

GOOD GOD! LOOK AT THAT!
WHAT IS THAT... MONSTER ?!
HE'S COVERED IN BLOOD!
AND HE'S NAKED !
IT'S A DEMON !
OVERTAKEN BY DRINK AND FRIGHTENED BY MY APPEARANCE, THEY RUSHED ME, ARMED WITH A CANE, A STICK, AND STONES...
56

IN AN INSTANT, A RAIN OF BLOWS FELL ON MY BACK AND MY HEAD... THESE GOOD PEOPLE HAD TURNED INTO BLOODTHIRSTY BEASTS! IT WAS AS THOUGH THEY HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY OFFENDED OR THAT THEY HAD BEEN ASSAULTED... THEY STRUCK THE DIABOLICAL ABOMINATION WITH GREAT ABHORRENCE.
HERE! TAKE THAT, MONSTER!
GO BACK TO HELL!
AAAAAAHH!!
DIE! KILL HIM!
DIE! DIE!
WE MUST DRIVE HIM OUT OF INGOLSTADT!
NO! HE MUST BE KILLED!
I ENCOUNTERED MEN AND, THEY TOO, LIKE DOGS, WERE CRUEL!
57

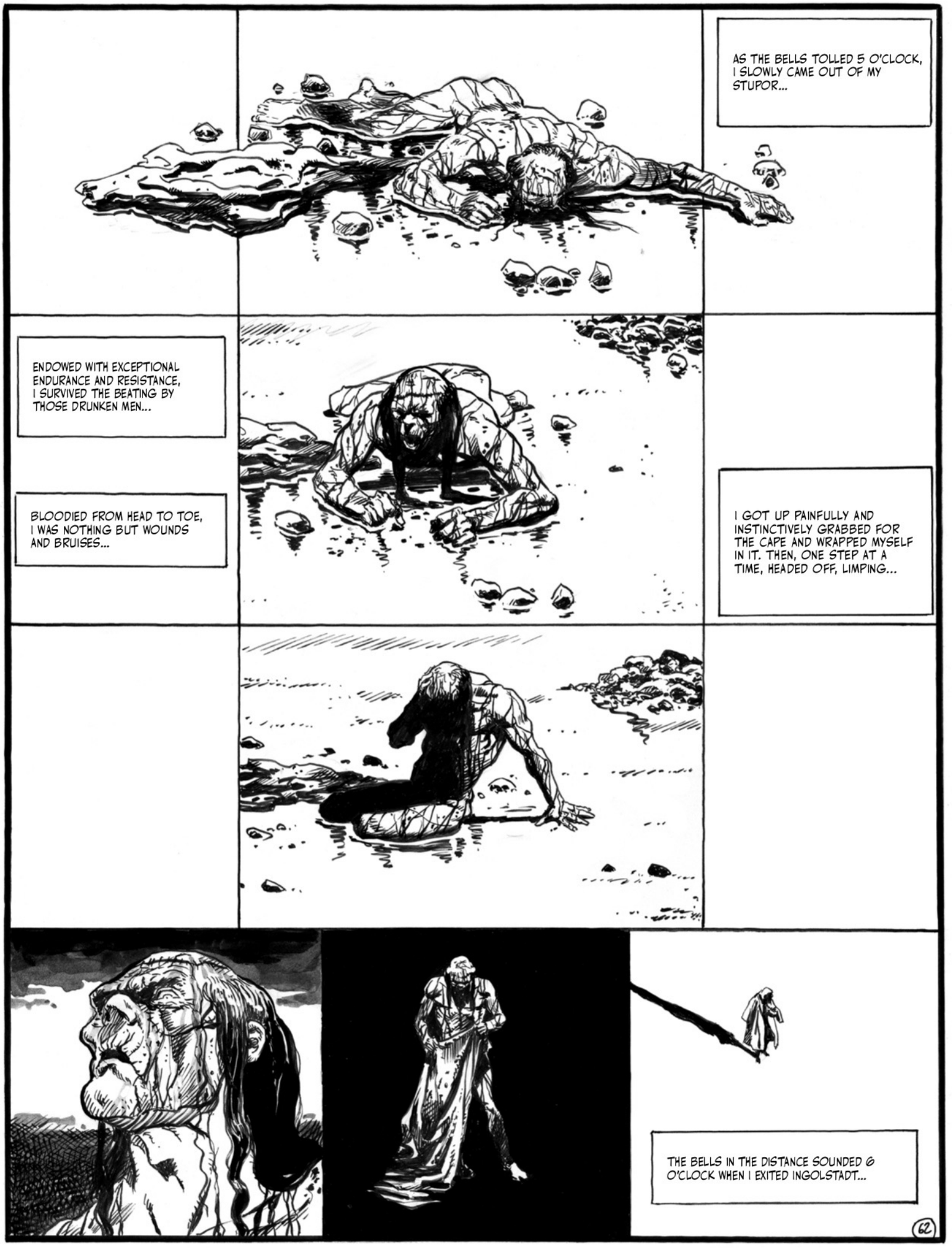
AND, AS I HAD DONE WITH THE DOGS, I REVOLTED AND REACTED! MY STRENGTH WAS BEYOND NORMAL, AND I TURNED AGAINST MY HARASSERS!
AAAAHH !
LOOK OUT! HE'S ATTACKING US!
!
ALAS, A METAL BAR INTERRUPTED MY MOMENTUM...
DAMN DOG OF HADES!
DONK!
58

TAKE THAT, DEMON!
DIE, DEVIL'S SPAWN!
THE BEAST IS DOWN!
DIE!
DIE!
HE'S HAD HIS DUE!
ONE LESS CARRION!
HE'S DONE FIGHTING!
THE "GOOD MEN" LEFT ME FOR DEAD. THEY WALKED AWAY WITHOUT ANY HESITATION!
53


THE BELLS OF THE BOROUGH STRUCK 2 O'CLOCK... INGOLSTADT FELL SILENT... THE RAIN HAD STOPPED, ALL WAS PEACEFUL AGAIN...
60

6

Solitude


AS THE BELLS TOLLED 5 O'CLOCK, I SLOWLY CAME OUT OF MY STUPOR...
ENDOWED WITH EXCEPTIONAL ENDURANCE AND RESISTANCE, I SURVIVED THE BEATING BY THOSE DRUNKEN MEN...
BLOODIED FROM HEAD TO TOE, I WAS NOTHING BUT WOUNDS AND BRUISES...
I GOT UP PAINFULLY AND INSTINCTIVELY GRABBED FOR THE CAPE AND WRAPPED MYSELF IN IT. THEN, ONE STEP AT A TIME, HEADED OFF, LIMPING...
THE BELLS IN THE DISTANCE SOUNDED 6 O'CLOCK WHEN I EXITED INGOLSTADT...
62

I THEN ENTERED THE FOREST THAT BORDERS THE CITY TO THE EAST...
IT WAS NEARLY DAWN... I WAS EXHAUSTED.
I HAD MET MANKIND!
I SHIVERED... WAS IT THE EARLY MORNING COLD...? OR THE BITTER MEMORY OF MY ATTACKERS?
63

FROM THE MOMENT I WAS DEEP IN THE FOREST, I FELT SAFE...

THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF PLACES TO HIDE... THE SUN HAD NOT YET RISEN WHEN I FOUND A DEEP HOLE FOR SHELTER AND FELL ASLEEP, TREES SHADED ME WITH THEIR FOLIAGE...

I SLEPT FOR A LONG, LONG TIME... WHEN I EMERGED FROM MY RESTFUL SLEEP, I REMAINED CURLED UP IN MY DEN UNTIL THE NEXT EVENING CAME.

THE FOREST, LIKE A PROTECTIVE MOTHER, DREW ME TO ITS BOSOM...

64

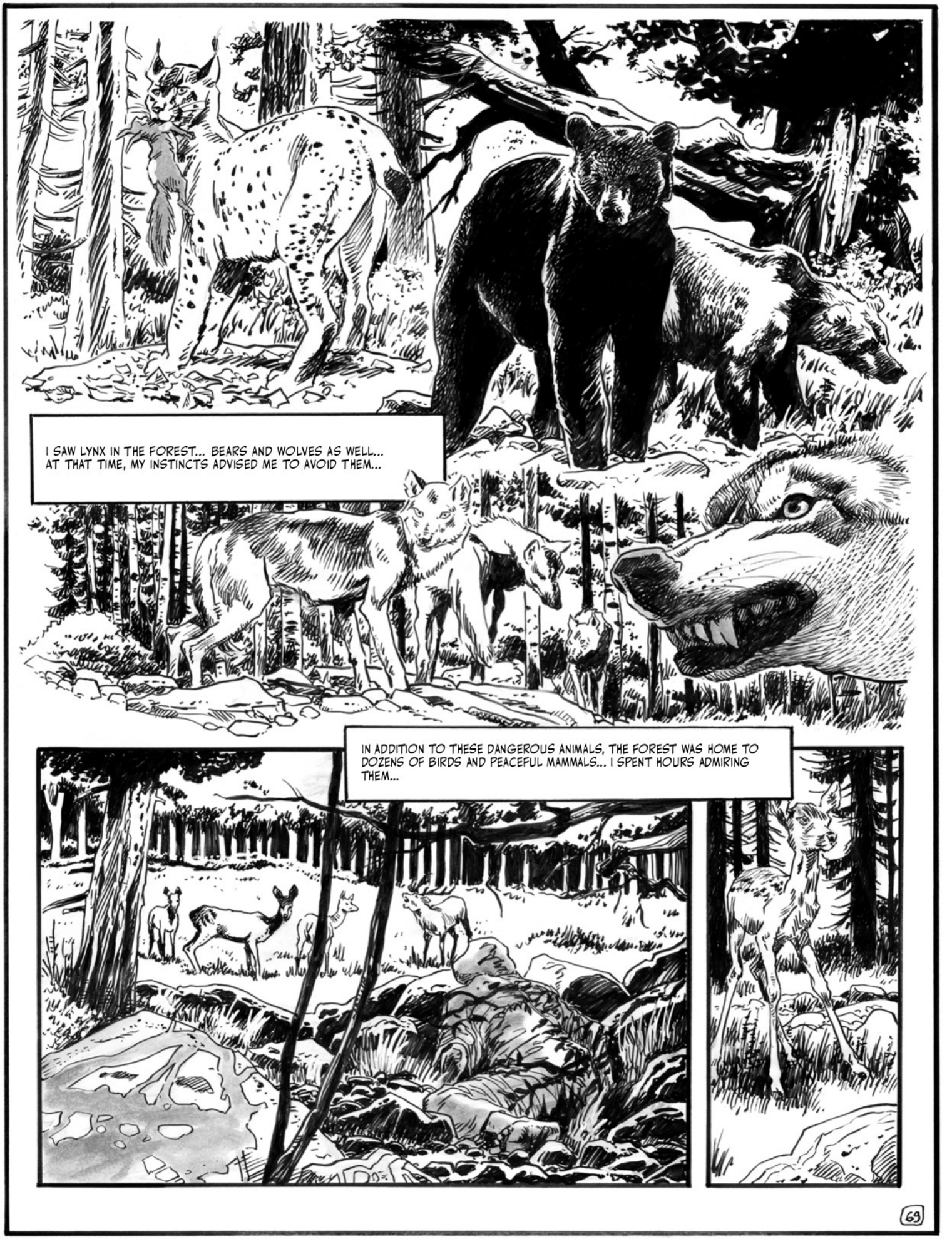
THIS WAS THE CREATURE'S TALE OF HIS FIRST DAYS... WHAT HAPPENED NEXT IS MIRACULOUS!

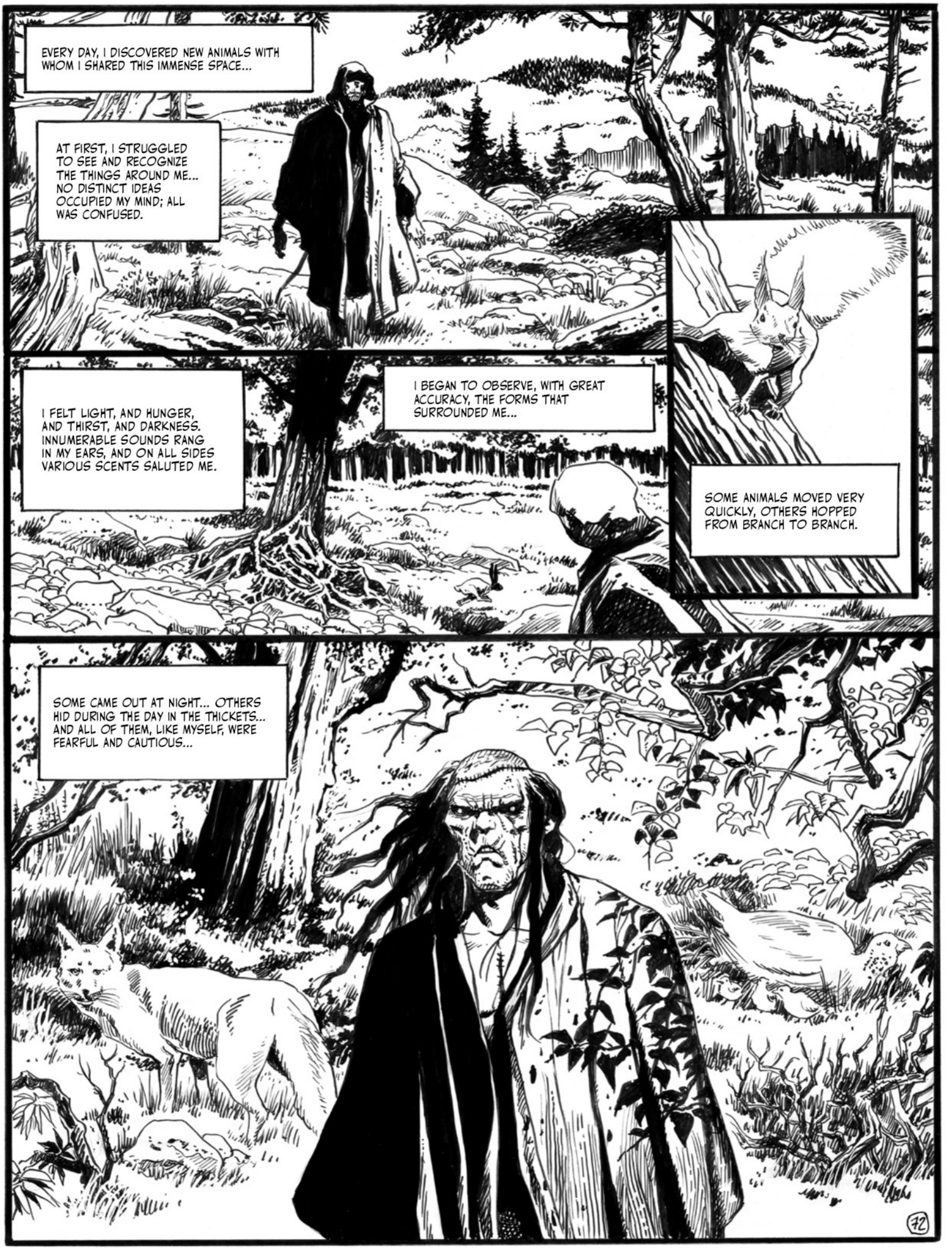
65

YOU GAVE ME LIFE AND IMMEDIATELY REJECTED ME! INSTEAD OF WELCOMING ME WITH OPEN ARMS, AS A FATHER WOULD HIS SON, I WAS RECEIVED WITH A CRY OF TERROR... YOU HAVE CONDEMNED ME TO LONELINESS, TO DARKNESS! I WAS DESPERATELY ALONE AND DISTRAUGHT...

FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, THE FOREST BECAME MY REFUGE... IN MY WANDERINGS, I FOUND A STREAM THAT SUPPLIED ME WITH DRINK... I CAME ACROSS A FAMILY OF WILD BOARS...
I OBSERVED THESE ANIMALS FROM AFAR (THE DOGS HAD MADE ME CAUTIOUS)... THEY ATE MUSHROOMS, ACORNS, NUTS AND EVERYTHING NATURE OFFERED...
THEY WERE MY FIRST MASTERS! I IDENTIFIED WITH THEM. I IMITATED THEM... THESE ANIMALS SLEPT DURING THE DAY... I DID AS WELL...
67

WILD BOARS CANNOT CLIMB TREES... BUT I SOMETIMES FOUND NESTS IN TREES... AND IN THE NESTS, EGGS!
I ALSO HAPPENED TO DISCOVER HIVES AND THUS, HONEY... AND STINGS!
I STARTED TO SLEEP IN TREES, WHERE I FELT SAFER...
68


I SAW LYNX IN THE FOREST... BEARS AND WOLVES AS WELL... AT THAT TIME, MY INSTINCTS ADVISED ME TO AVOID THEM...
IN ADDITION TO THESE DANGEROUS ANIMALS, THE FOREST WAS HOME TO DOZENS OF BIRDS AND PEACEFUL MAMMALS... I SPENT HOURS ADMIRING THEM...
69


EVERY DAY, I DISCOVERED NEW ANIMALS WITH WHOM I SHARED THIS IMMENSE SPACE...
AT FIRST, I STRUGGLED TO SEE AND RECOGNIZE THE THINGS AROUND ME... NO DISTINCT IDEAS OCCUPIED MY MIND; ALL WAS CONFUSED.
I FELT LIGHT, AND HUNGER, AND THIRST, AND DARKNESS. INNUMERABLE SOUNDS RANG IN MY EARS, AND ON ALL SIDES VARIOUS SCENTS SALUTED ME.
I BEGAN TO OBSERVE, WITH GREAT ACCURACY, THE FORMS THAT SURROUNDED ME...
SOME ANIMALS MOVED VERY QUICKLY, OTHERS HOPPED FROM BRANCH TO BRANCH.
SOME CAME OUT AT NIGHT... OTHERS HID DURING THE DAY IN THE THICKETS... AND ALL OF THEM, LIKE MYSELF, WERE FEARFUL AND CAUTIOUS...
72

HAIR COVERED THE BODIES OF SOME, WHILE OTHERS WERE ENDOWED WITH FEATHERS...
THE BIRDS! THERE ARE ALL KINDS... SMALL ONES, BIG ONES... THERE ARE THOSE THAT FLY HIGH IN THE SKY, THOSE THAT CAN ONLY BE SEEN AT NIGHT... I FOUND THAT THE SPARROW UTTERED NONE BUT HARSH NOTES, WHILST THOSE OF THE BLACKBIRD AND THRUSH WERE SWEET AND ENTICING... ENCHANTING...!
73

SOMETIMES I TRIED TO IMITATE THE PLEASANT SONGS OF THE BIRDS BUT WAS UNABLE... THE UNCOUTH AND INARTICULATE SOUNDS WHICH BROKE FROM ME FRIGHTENED ME INTO SILENCE AGAIN...!

THE SIGHT OF SWARMS OF STARLINGS TURNING AND SPINNING IN THE SKY SEEMED SUPERNATURAL TO ME! IT FASCINATED ME...

AT NIGHT, I WANDERED IN THE VAST WOODED AREAS IN SEARCH OF FOOD... THE MOON, WHICH I DISCOVERED WITH A KIND OF WONDER, ENLIGHTENED MY PATH...

ITS GENTLE LIGHT STOLE OVER THE HEAVENS AND GAVE ME A SENSATION OF PLEASURE.

THE INNUMERABLE STARS TWINKLED WITH THOUSANDS OF SMALL SPARKLES IN THE CELESTIAL VAULT...

AT NIGHT, DARKNESS WAS MY ALLY... I BECAME INVISIBLE. ONE NIGHT, THE HUNGER THAT TORMENTED ME PUSHED ME TO VENTURE OUT OF THE PROTECTIVE FOREST...
AND SO, I ADOPTED THE HABIT OF EXPLORING THE SURROUNDINGS... I APPROACHED THE DWELLINGS OF THE MEN... AT NIGHT, THEY SLEEP!
I PENETRATED INTO THEIR TOWNS, THEIR VILLAGES, THEIR FARMS... I VISITED THEIR STABLES, THEIR CHICKEN COOPS (AVOIDING, HOWEVER, THEIR CURSED DOGS!)

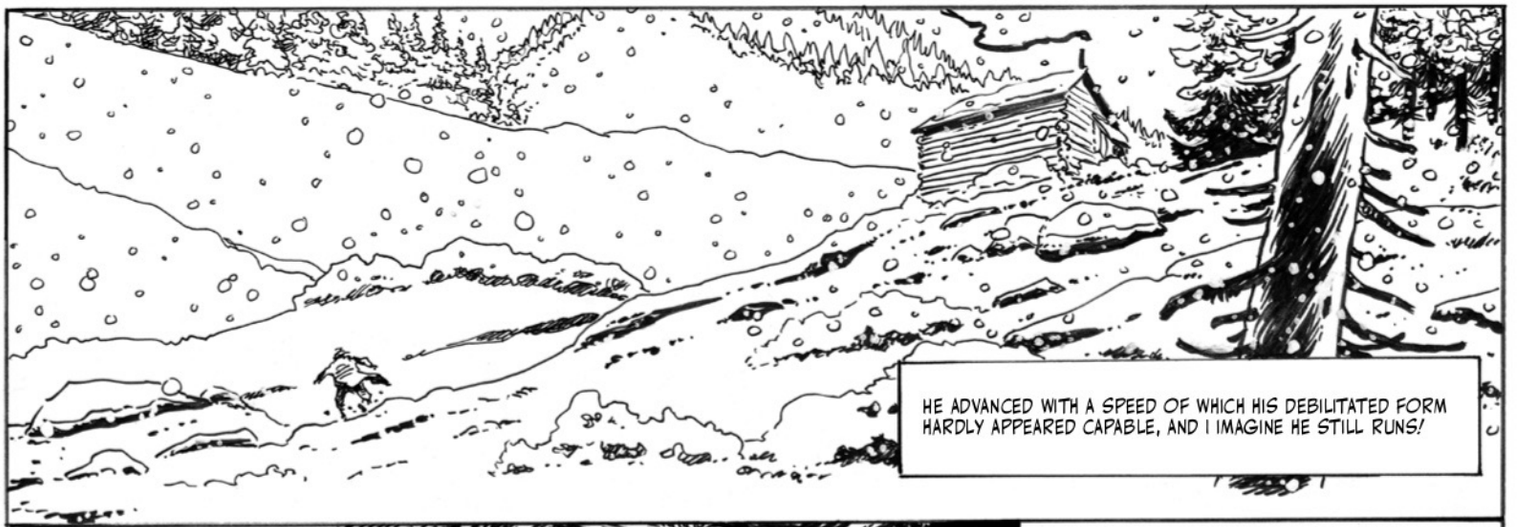
CAUTIOUS AND SILENT AS A FOX, I SNEAKED EVERYWHERE... WITHOUT WAKING THE SLEEPING HENS, I STOLE THEIR EGGS...
I HAPPENED TO FIND BREAD, CHEESE, MILK, DELICIOUS THINGS THAT I HASTENED TO TAKE TO THE FOREST...
I WAS OPPRESSED BY COLD... IN A SHELTER PROBABLY BELONGING TO A LUMBERJACK, I FOUND A LARGE SHEEPSKIN FUR COAT... THIS COAT WAS A GODSEND... IN ADDITION TO THE CAPE THAT ENVELOPED ME, IT WAS TIMELY AND VERY USEFUL TO ME...

THEN THE SNOW CAME...
THE FIRST ENCHANTING SNOWFLAKES FELL FROM THE SKY IN SILENCE... SNOW COVERED EVERYTHING...
I SAW IT FOR THE FIRST TIME... FROST AND ICE FOLLOWED...
DESPITE MY BIG COAT, I SUFFERED FROM THE BITING COLD... I COULD NO LONGER FEEL MY BARE FEET... I COVERED THEM WITH RAGS...

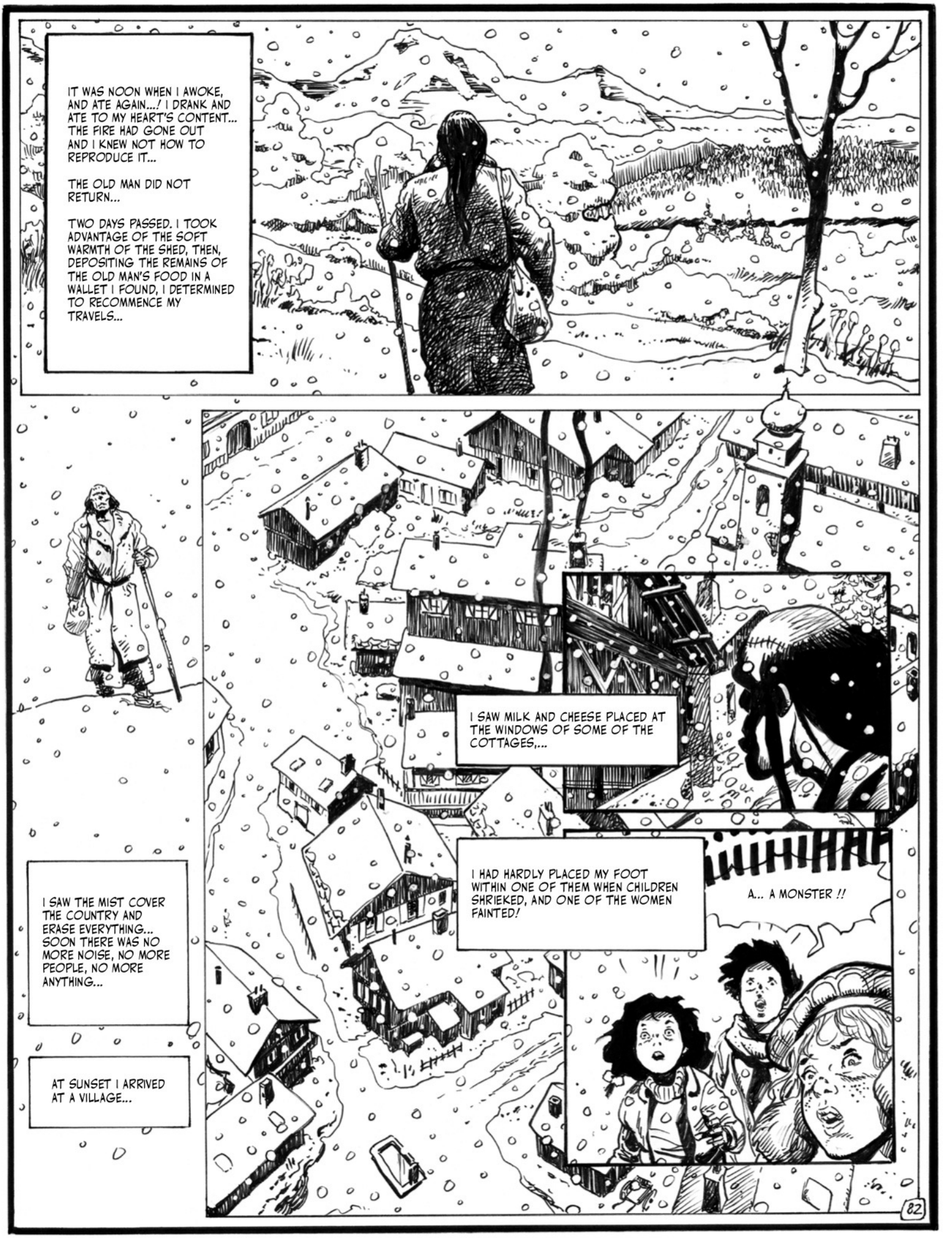
I STRUCK ACROSS THE WOOD TOWARDS THE SETTING SUN. THE LANDSCAPE WAS UNRECOGNISABLE...

I PASSED THREE DAYS IN THESE RAMBLES.
THE SNOW FELL CONTINUOUSLY FOR OVER A WEEK...
79

AT LENGTH, I PERCEIVED A SMALL HUT ON A RISING GROUND... A TRICKLE OF SMOKE ESCAPED FROM IT...
UNTIL THEN, I HAD MET VERY FEW HUMANS...
I EXAMINED THE STRUCTURE WITH GREAT CURIOSITY. FINDING THE DOOR OPEN, I ENTERED...
AN OLD MAN SAT IN IT, NEAR A FIRE, PREPARING HIS BREAKFAST. HE TURNED UPON HEARING A NOISE...
HEAVENLY SAINTS!
JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH!
...AND, PERCEIVING ME, SHRIEKED LOUDLY, AND, QUITTING THE HUT, RAN ACROSS THE FIELDS...
AAAAAHH!
80



A FIRE WAS BURNING IN A SMALL FIREPLACE... I HAD NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE... THE HEAT WAS EXQUISITE TO ME AND I GREEDILY DEVOURED THE REMNANTS OF THE OLD MAN'S BREAKFAST, WHICH CONSISTED OF BREAD, CHEESE, MILK, AND WINE; THE LATTER, HOWEVER, I DID NOT LIKE...

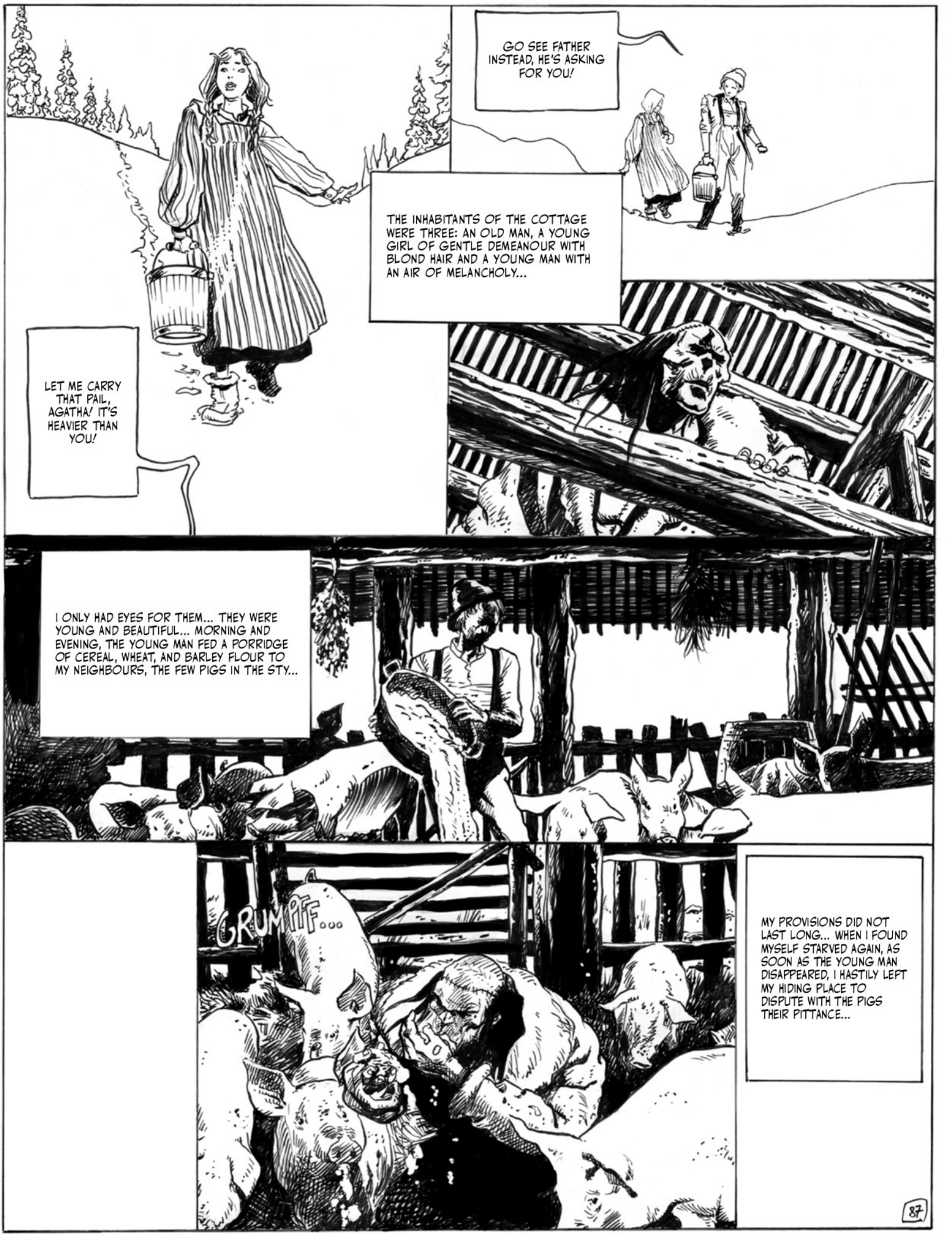

IT WAS NOON WHEN I AWOKE, AND ATE AGAIN...! I DRANK AND ATE TO MY HEART'S CONTENT... THE FIRE HAD GONE OUT AND I KNEW NOT HOW TO REPRODUCE IT...
THE OLD MAN DID NOT RETURN...
TWO DAYS PASSED. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE SOFT WARMTH OF THE SHED, THEN, DEPOSITING THE REMAINS OF THE OLD MAN'S FOOD IN A WALLET I FOUND, I DETERMINED TO RECOMMENCE MY TRAVELS...
I SAW MILK AND CHEESE PLACED AT THE WINDOWS OF SOME OF THE COTTAGES,...
I HAD HARDLY PLACED MY FOOT WITHIN ONE OF THEM WHEN CHILDREN SHRIEKED, AND ONE OF THE WOMEN FAINTED!
A... A MONSTER !!
I SAW THE MIST COVER THE COUNTRY AND ERASE EVERYTHING... SOON THERE WAS NO MORE NOISE, NO MORE PEOPLE, NO MORE ANYTHING...
AT SUNSET I ARRIVED AT A VILLAGE...
82

OUR CHILDREN ARE IN DANGER!
THE WHOLE VILLAGE WAS ROUSED; SOME FLED, SOME ATTACKED ME, UNTIL, GRIEVOUSLY BRUISED BY STONES AND MANY OTHER KINDS OF PROJECTILES, I ESCAPED TO THE OPEN COUNTRY...
A DEMON STRAIGHT OUT OF HELL!
AAAAAHH!
THAT WAS MY THIRD ENCOUNTER WITH MAN...
85

7
The Refuge

NIGHT WAS FALLING, I WAS EXTREMELY COLD AND I FEARFULLY TOOK REFUGE IN A LOW HOVEL...
I DID NOT KNOW AT THAT TIME THE IMPORTANCE THIS PLACE WOULD HAVE ON MY EXISTENCE, HOWEVER MISERABLE IT WAS...! I ONLY THOUGHT OF HOW IT WAS DRY, AND I FOUND IT AN AGREEABLE ASYLUM FROM THE SNOW AND RAIN... IT WAS ONLY A QUESTION OF SPENDING ONE NIGHT...
85

MY PLACE OF REFUGE, WHICH I DOVE INTO HEAD-FIRST, WAS CONSTRUCTED OF WOOD, BUT SO LOW THAT I COULD ONLY WITH DIFFICULTY SIT UPRIGHT IN IT....
...AND ALTHOUGH THE WIND ENTERED IT BY INNUMERABLE CRACKS, COMPARED TO THE ICY FOREST, THIS HOVEL WAS A TRUE PARADISE!
I LAY DOWN HAPPY TO HAVE FOUND SHELTER, HOWEVER MISERABLE, FROM THE INCLEMENCY OF THE SEASON, AND STILL MORE FROM THE BARBARITY OF MAN...!
86


LET ME CARRY THAT PAIL, AGATHA! IT'S HEAVIER THAN YOU!
GO SEE FATHER INSTEAD, HE'S ASKING FOR YOU!
THE INHABITANTS OF THE COTTAGE WERE THREE: AN OLD MAN, A YOUNG GIRL OF GENTLE DEMEANOUR WITH BLOND HAIR AND A YOUNG MAN WITH AN AIR OF MELANCHOLY...
I ONLY HAD EYES FOR THEM... THEY WERE YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL... MORNING AND EVENING, THE YOUNG MAN FED A PORRIDGE OF CEREAL, WHEAT, AND BARLEY FLOUR TO MY NEIGHBOURS, THE FEW PIGS IN THE STY...
GRUMPFF...
MY PROVISIONS DID NOT LAST LONG... WHEN I FOUND MYSELF STARVED AGAIN, AS SOON AS THE YOUNG MAN DISAPPEARED, I HASTILY LEFT MY HIDING PLACE TO DISPUTE WITH THE PIGS THEIR PITTANCE...
87

ONE OF THE PANES OF THE WINDOWS OF THE COTTAGE HAD BEEN FILLED UP WITH WOOD. THERE WAS A SMALL AND ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLE GAP THROUGH WHICH THE EYE COULD JUST PENETRATE. THROUGH THIS CREVICE, A SMALL ROOM WAS VISIBLE...

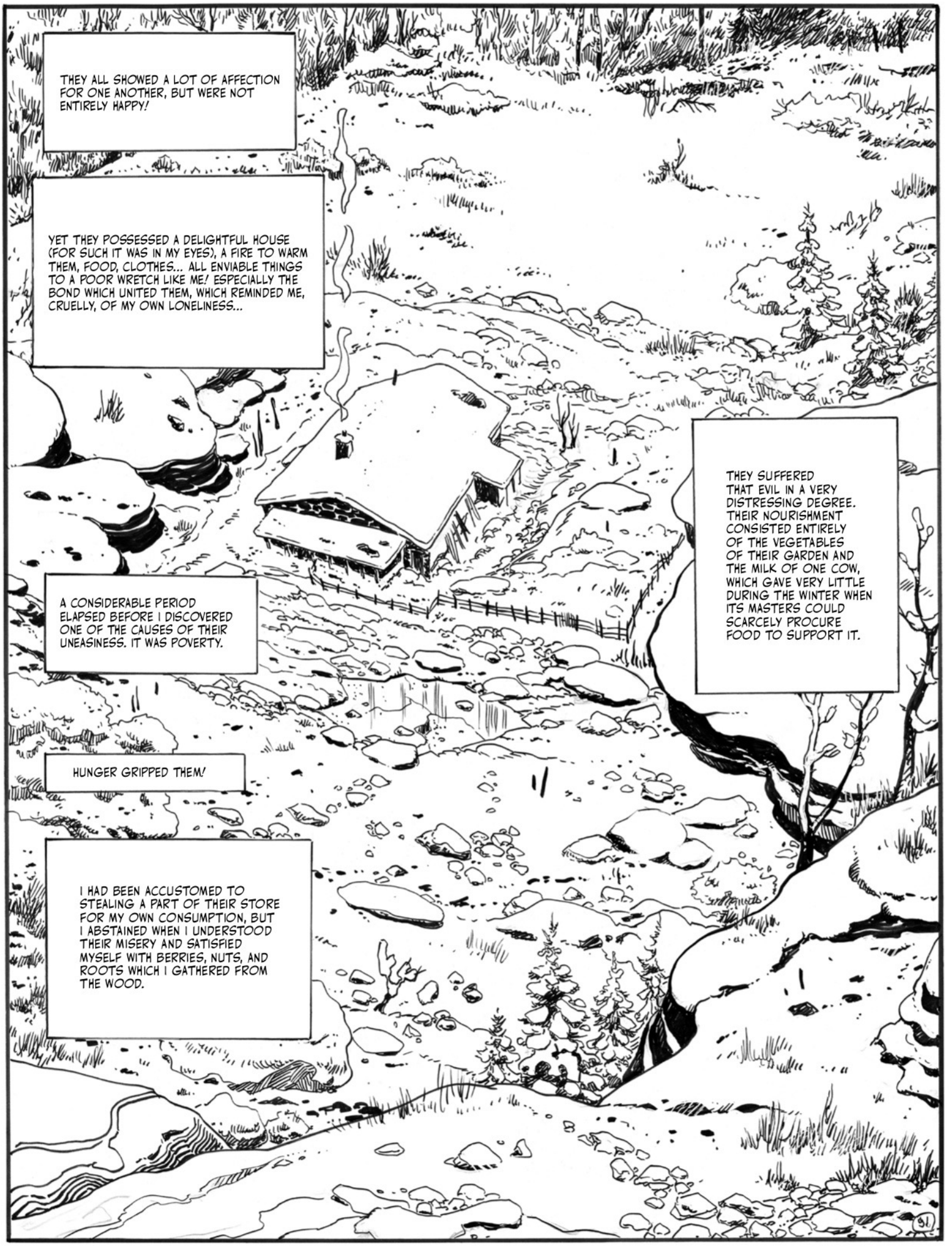
NIGHT QUICKLY SHUT IN, BUT TO MY EXTREME WONDER, THE COTTAGERS HAD A MEANS OF PROLONGING LIGHT BY THE USE OF TAPERS...! I WAS DELIGHTED TO FIND THAT THE SETTING OF THE SUN DID NOT PUT AN END TO THE PLEASURE I EXPERIENCED IN WATCHING MY HUMAN NEIGHBOURS.

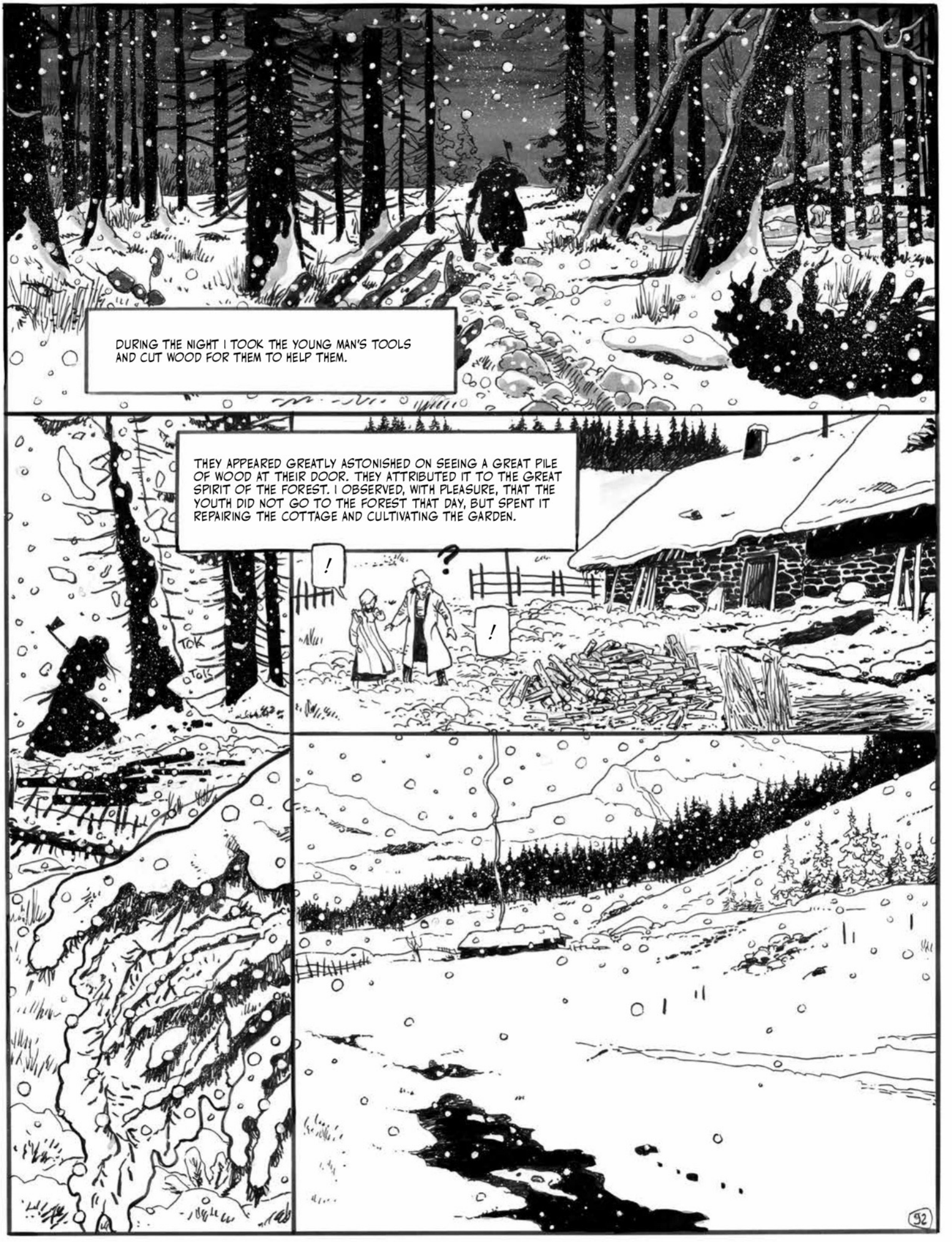
I WAS THUS ABLE TO OBSERVE HUMANS FOR THE FIRST TIME! THE OLD MAN SAT MOST OF THE TIME...THE YOUNG GIRL AND HER BROTHER ENGAGED IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES WHICH WERE, THEN, INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO ME...

88

SOMETIMES, THE ELDERLY MAN SEIZED AN INSTRUMENT FROM WHICH HE DREW ENCHANTING SOUNDS THAT DELIGHTED MY HOSTS...
I HAD NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO TOUCHING AS THIS SILVER-HAIRED MAN AND THIS DELICATELY MANNERED GIRL!
?
IT ALSO HAPPENED THAT THE YOUTH UTTERED RATHER MONOTONOUS SOUNDS WHILE THE OTHER TWO LISTENED TO HIM WITH INTEREST...
AT THAT TIME, I KNEW NOTHING OF THE SCIENCE OF WORDS OR LETTERS.
I HAD, MOREOVER, MYSELF, A LITTLE BOOK FULL OF STRANGE SIGNS AND ENIGMATIC DRAWINGS...
THIS NOTEBOOK WAS IN THE POCKET OF MY LARGE CAPE... I DON'T KNOW WHY I HAD KEPT IT!
!?
WHAT COULD IT BE USED FOR? WHAT WAS ITS PURPOSE? A MYSTERY!
89

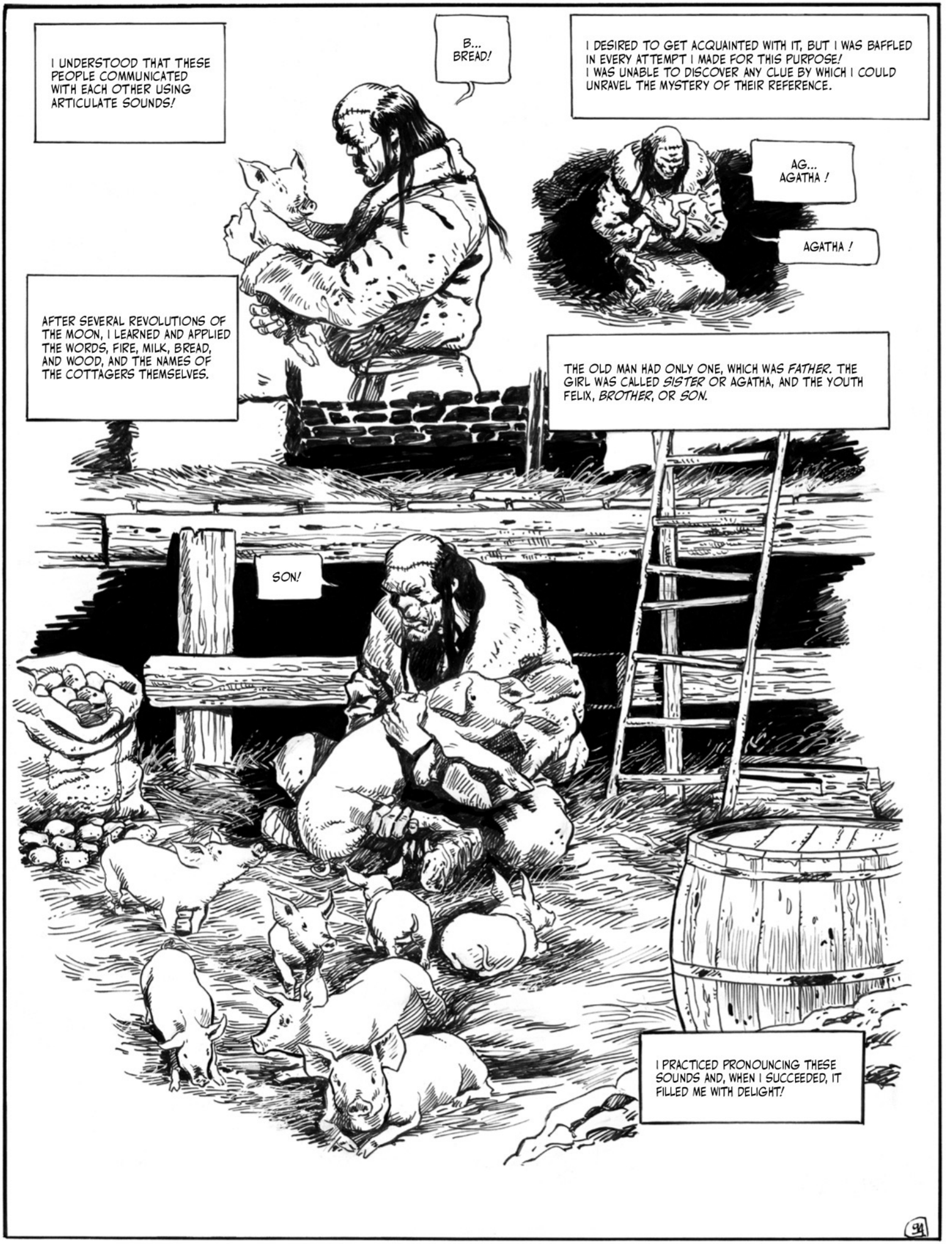
I WATCHED THESE THREE FOR DAYS FROM MY HIDING PLACE...
HOW COULD I HAVE GUESSED THAT THE OLD MAN WHO EMPLOYED HIS TIME ON HIS INSTRUMENT OR IN CONTEMPLATION WAS BLIND?
THE YOUNG GIRL TOOK CARE OF THE HOUSEHOLD CHORES... SHE WASHED THE LAUNDRY, DARNED IT, COOKED, ETC.
THE YOUNG MAN WAS CONSTANTLY EMPLOYED OUT OF DOORS,... HE CUT WOOD FOR THE FIRE, CARRIED BUCKETS OF WATER OR MILK AND TENDED A VEGETABLE GARDEN...


THEY ALL SHOWED A LOT OF AFFECTION FOR ONE ANOTHER, BUT WERE NOT ENTIRELY HAPPY!
YET THEY POSSESSED A DELIGHTFUL HOUSE (FOR SUCH IT WAS IN MY EYES), A FIRE TO WARM THEM, FOOD, CLOTHES... ALL ENVIABLE THINGS TO A POOR WRETCH LIKE ME! ESPECIALLY THE BOND WHICH UNITED THEM, WHICH REMINDED ME, CRUELLY, OF MY OWN LONELINESS...
A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD ELAPSED BEFORE I DISCOVERED ONE OF THE CAUSES OF THEIR UNEASINESS. IT WAS POVERTY.
HUNGER GRIPPED THEM!
I HAD BEEN ACCUSTOMED TO STEALING A PART OF THEIR STORE FOR MY OWN CONSUMPTION, BUT I ABSTAINED WHEN I UNDERSTOOD THEIR MISERY AND SATISFIED MYSELF WITH BERRIES, NUTS, AND ROOTS WHICH I GATHERED FROM THE WOOD.
THEY SUFFERED THAT EVIL IN A VERY DISTRESSING DEGREE. THEIR NOURISHMENT CONSISTED ENTIRELY OF THE VEGETABLES OF THEIR GARDEN AND THE MILK OF ONE COW, WHICH GAVE VERY LITTLE DURING THE WINTER WHEN ITS MASTERS COULD SCARCELY PROCURE FOOD TO SUPPORT IT.
91


DURING THE NIGHT I TOOK THE YOUNG MAN'S TOOLS AND CUT WOOD FOR THEM TO HELP THEM.
THEY APPEARED GREATLY ASTONISHED ON SEEING A GREAT PILE OF WOOD AT THEIR DOOR. THEY ATTRIBUTED IT TO THE GREAT SPIRIT OF THE FOREST. I OBSERVED, WITH PLEASURE, THAT THE YOUTH DID NOT GO TO THE FOREST THAT DAY, BUT SPENT IT REPAIRING THE COTTAGE AND CULTIVATING THE GARDEN.
TOK
TOK
!
?
!
92

8

I'm a Monster


I UNDERSTOOD THAT THESE PEOPLE COMMUNICATED WITH EACH OTHER USING ARTICULATE SOUNDS!
B... BREAD!
I DESIRED TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH IT, BUT I WAS BAFFLED IN EVERY ATTEMPT I MADE FOR THIS PURPOSE! I WAS UNABLE TO DISCOVER ANY CLUE BY WHICH I COULD UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY OF THEIR REFERENCE.
AG... AGATHA !
AGATHA !
AFTER SEVERAL REVOLUTIONS OF THE MOON, I LEARNED AND APPLIED THE WORDS, FIRE, MILK, BREAD, AND WOOD, AND THE NAMES OF THE COTTAGERS THEMSELVES.
THE OLD MAN HAD ONLY ONE, WHICH WAS *FATHER*. THE GIRL WAS CALLED *SISTER* OR AGATHA, AND THE YOUTH FELIX, *BROTHER*, OR *SON*.
SON!
I PRACTICED PRONOUNCING THESE SOUNDS AND, WHEN I SUCCEEDED, IT FILLED ME WITH DELIGHT!
94

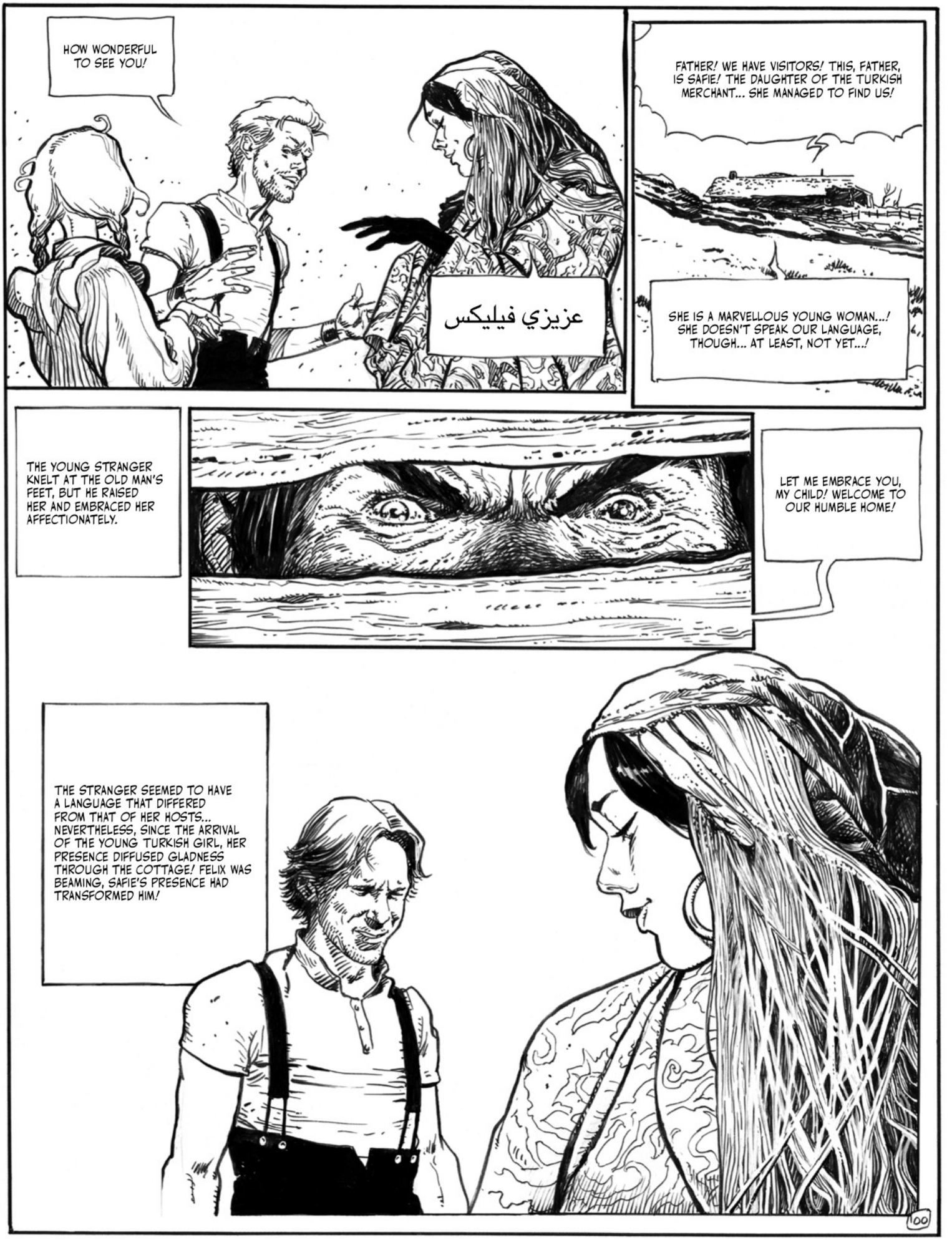
THE GENTLE MANNERS OF THE COTTAGERS GREATLY ENDEARED THEM TO ME; I LONGED TO JOIN THEM, BUT DARED NOT. I REMEMBERED TOO WELL THE TREATMENT I HAD SUFFERED FROM THE BARBAROUS VILLAGERS. FOR THE PRESENT I WOULD REMAIN QUIETLY IN MY HOVEL, WATCHING AND ENDEAVOURING TO DISCOVER THE MOTIVES WHICH INFLUENCED THEIR ACTIONS.
I SPENT THE WINTER IN THIS MANNER.
BY DINT OF LISTENING, I MADE NOTABLE PROGRESS IN LEARNING THEIR LANGUAGE... I ARDENTLY WANTED TO REVEAL MY PRESENCE TO THE OCCUPANTS OF THE HOUSE, BUT I FELT THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME AS LONG AS I WAS UNABLE TO EXPRESS MYSELF AS WELL AS THEY...
I DISCOVERED THAT YOUNG MAN UTTERED MANY OF THE SAME SOUNDS WHEN HE READ AS WHEN HE TALKED.
95

ONE DAY I VIEWED MYSELF IN A TRANSPARENT POOL!
!
AT FIRST, I STARTED BACK, UNABLE TO BELIEVE THAT INDEED I, WHO WAS REFLECTED IN THE MIRROR, WAS IN REALITY THE MONSTER THAT I AM...
I WAS FILLED WITH DESPONDENCE AND MORTIFICATION.
THAT EXPLAINED EVERYTHING: THE VIOLENT REACTIONS THAT I AROUSED, THE REJECTION, THE HATRED...
WATER WAS POURING FROM MY EYES...
96

9
Safie

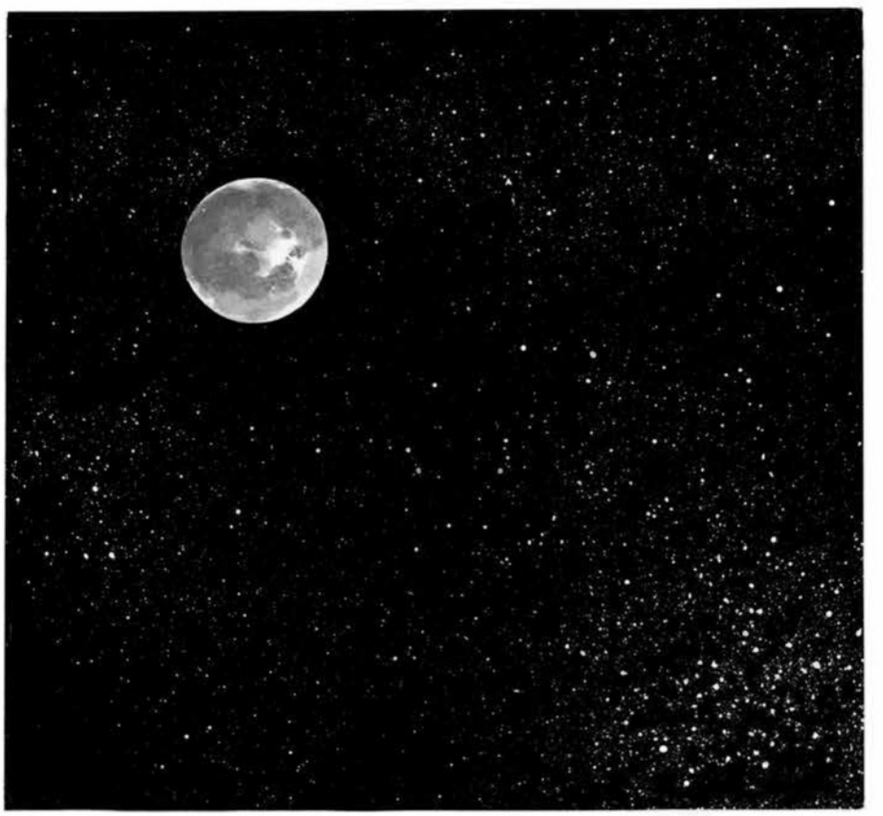
MY FIRST SPRING ADVANCED RAPIDLY; THE WEATHER BECAME FINE AND THE SKIES CLOUDLESS. IT SURPRISED ME THAT WHAT BEFORE WAS DESERT AND GLOOMY SHOULD NOW BLOOM WITH THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS AND VERDURE.
MY SENSES WERE GRATIFIED AND REFRESHED BY A THOUSAND SCENTS OF DELIGHT AND A THOUSAND SIGHTS OF BEAUTY. THE WEATHER WAS WONDERFUL AND THE SKY WAS CLOUDLESS THE DAY SAFIE APPEARED...
SHE ARRIVED ON HORSEBACK, ACCOMPANIED BY A COUNTRY-MAN AS A GUIDE. THE LADY WAS DRESSED IN A HEADDRESS AND HER FACE WAS COVERED WITH A VEIL.
WE ARE NEARLY THERE, MISS!
58

HELLO, IS ANYONE IN?
WE'RE HERE! LET ME HELP YOU MISS.
AGATHA APPEARED FIRST AND QUESTIONED THE STRANGER...
?
BUT, WITH HER GENTLE VOICE, SHE WAS ONLY ABLE TO SAY...
FELIX!
THE STRANGER DID NOT APPEAR TO SPEAK AGATHA'S LANGUAGE, NOR UNDERSTAND IT!
SAFIE?!!
FELIX!
SAFIE! HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?! AM I DREAMING?
FELIX SEEMED RAVISHED WITH DELIGHT WHEN HE SAW HER, EVERY TRAIT OF SORROW VANISHED FROM HIS FACE.
99

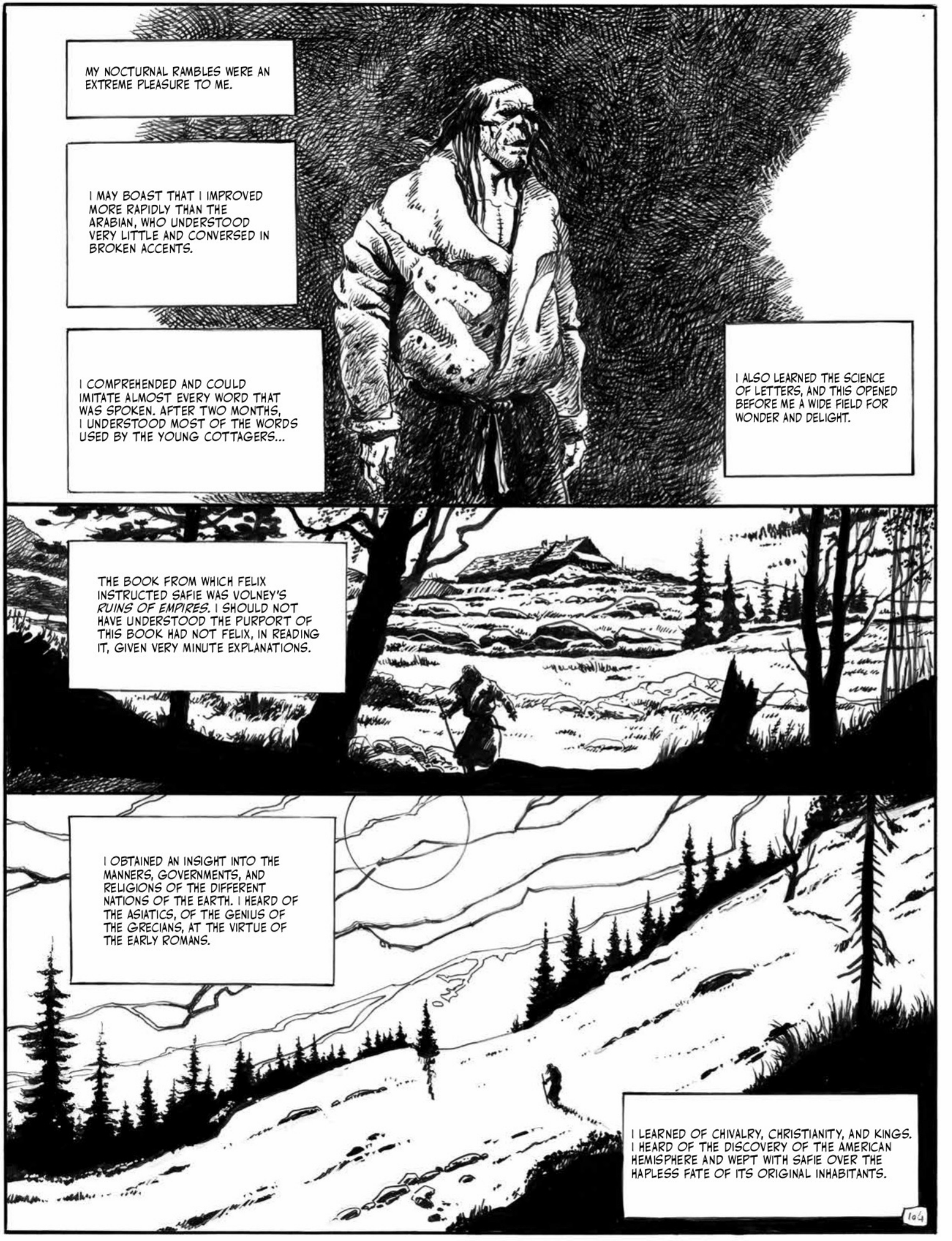

HOW WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU!
عزيزي فيليكس
FATHER! WE HAVE VISITORS! THIS, FATHER, IS SAFIE! THE DAUGHTER OF THE TURKISH MERCHANT... SHE MANAGED TO FIND US!
SHE IS A MARVELLOUS YOUNG WOMAN...! SHE DOESN'T SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE, THOUGH... AT LEAST, NOT YET...!
THE YOUNG STRANGER KNELT AT THE OLD MAN'S FEET, BUT HE RAISED HER AND EMBRACED HER AFFECTIONATELY.
LET ME EMBRACE YOU, MY CHILD! WELCOME TO OUR HUMBLE HOME!
THE STRANGER SEEMED TO HAVE A LANGUAGE THAT DIFFERED FROM THAT OF HER HOSTS... NEVERTHELESS, SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF THE YOUNG TURKISH GIRL, HER PRESENCE DIFFUSED GLADNESS THROUGH THE COTTAGE! FELIX WAS BEAMING, SAFIE'S PRESENCE HAD TRANSFORMED HIM!
100

SEVERAL DAYS PASSED DURING WHICH I NOTICED, BY THE FREQUENT RECURRENCE OF SOME SOUND WHICH THE STRANGER REPEATED AFTER HER HOSTS, THAT SHE WAS ENDEAVOURING TO LEARN THEIR LANGUAGE.
I MADE USE OF THE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SAME END!
THE STRANGER LEARNED ABOUT TWENTY WORDS AT THE FIRST LESSON; MOST OF THEM, INDEED, WERE THOSE WHICH I HAD BEFORE UNDERSTOOD, BUT I PROFITED BY THE OTHERS...
DURING THE DAYS, THE YOUNG SAFIE STUDIED AND HELPED AGATHA WITH HOUSEHOLD TASKS WHILE FELIX WENT OUT EARLY IN THE MORNING TO HIS WORK...
THE AFTERNOON WAS DEDICATED TO LEARNING THEIR LANGUAGE, READING AND WRITING...
ABCDE
FGHIJK
LM
101

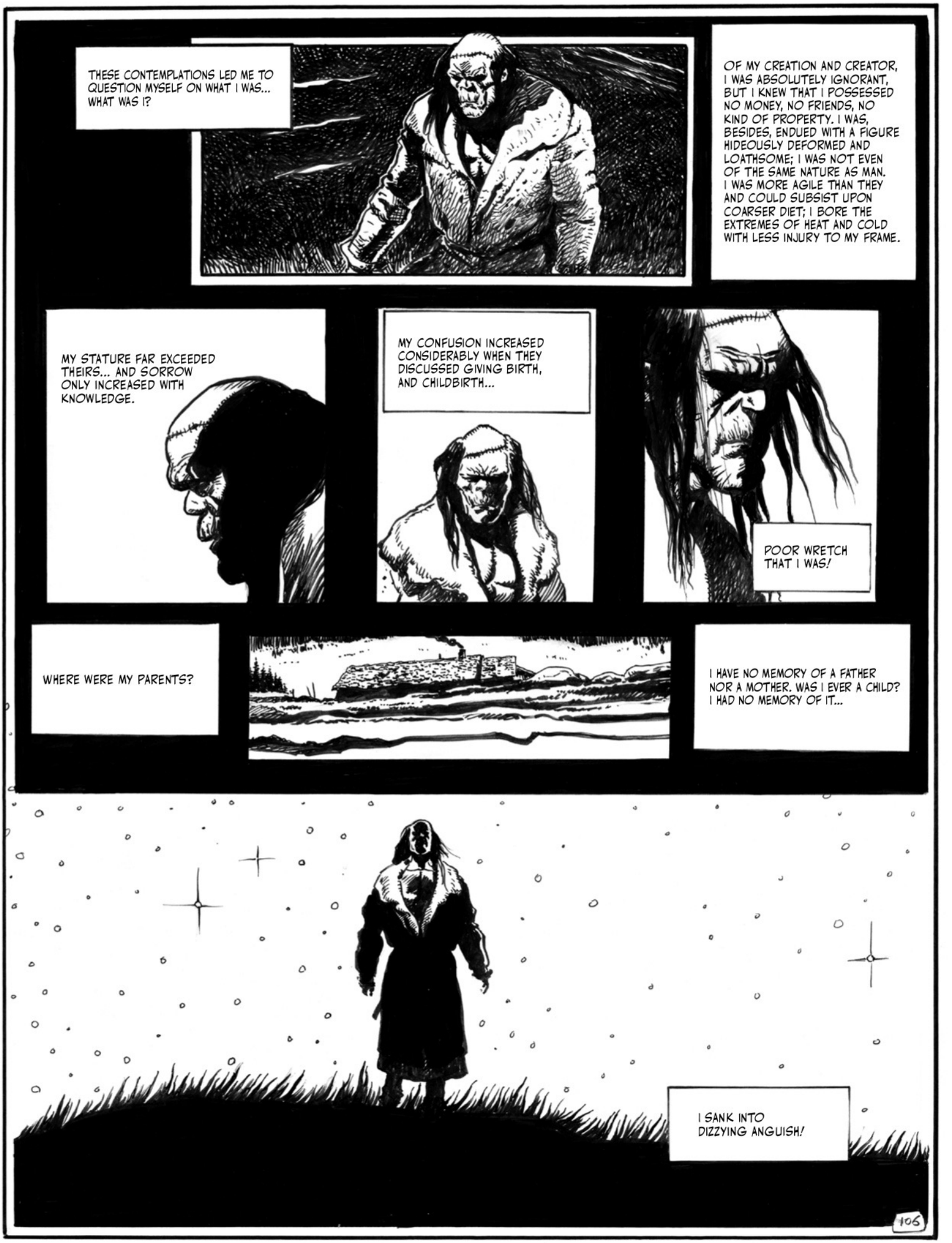
EVERYONE, INCLUDING I, IN MY HIDING PLACE, WAS JOYOUS...
IN THE EVENING, THEY MADE MUSIC... SAFIE SANG DIVINELY, AND HER VOICE EXCEEDED IN BEAUTY THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SONG OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BIRDS OF THE FOREST!
THE DAYS PASSED IN PURE JOY... THE BLACK GROUND WAS COVERED WITH HERBAGE, AND THE GREEN BANKS INTERSPERSED WITH INNUMERABLE FLOWERS... THE SUN GREW WARMER, THE NIGHTS CLEARER AND BALMY...
102

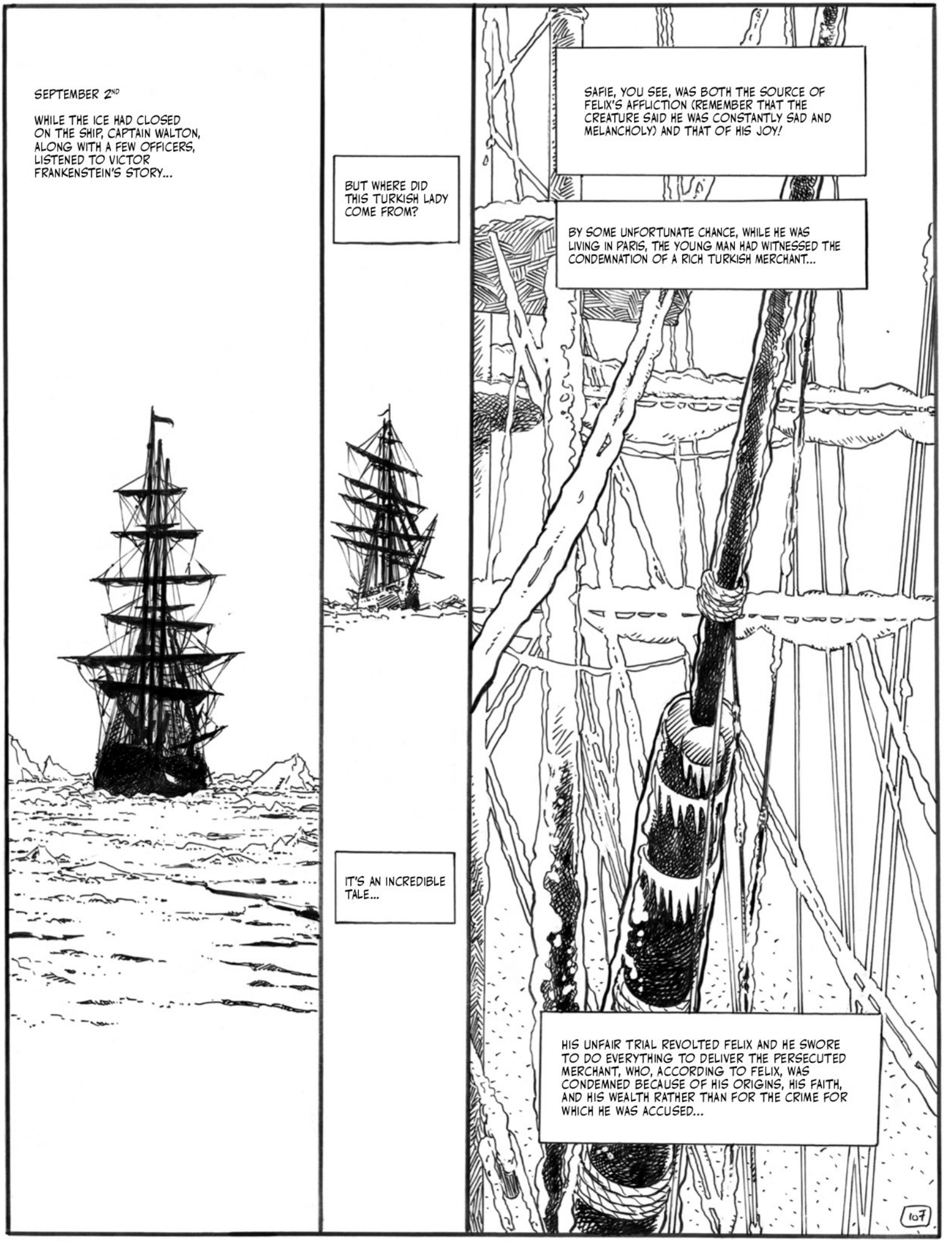


10
Nocturnal Rambles


MY NOCTURNAL RAMBLES WERE AN EXTREME PLEASURE TO ME.
I MAY BOAST THAT I IMPROVED MORE RAPIDLY THAN THE ARABIAN, WHO UNDERSTOOD VERY LITTLE AND CONVERSED IN BROKEN ACCENTS.
I COMPREHENDED AND COULD IMITATE ALMOST EVERY WORD THAT WAS SPOKEN. AFTER TWO MONTHS, I UNDERSTOOD MOST OF THE WORDS USED BY THE YOUNG COTTAGERS...
I ALSO LEARNED THE SCIENCE OF LETTERS, AND THIS OPENED BEFORE ME A WIDE FIELD FOR WONDER AND DELIGHT.
THE BOOK FROM WHICH FELIX INSTRUCTED SAFIE WAS VOLNEY'S *RUINS OF EMPIRES*. I SHOULD NOT HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE PURPORT OF THIS BOOK HAD NOT FELIX, IN READING IT, GIVEN VERY MINUTE EXPLANATIONS.
I OBTAINED AN INSIGHT INTO THE MANNERS, GOVERNMENTS, AND RELIGIONS OF THE DIFFERENT NATIONS OF THE EARTH. I HEARD OF THE ASIATICS, OF THE GENIUS OF THE GRECIANS, AT THE VIRTUE OF THE EARLY ROMANS.
I LEARNED OF CHIVALRY, CHRISTIANITY, AND KINGS. I HEARD OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE AMERICAN HEMISPHERE AND WEPT WITH SAFIE OVER THE HAPLESS FATE OF ITS ORIGINAL INHABITANTS.
104

WAS MAN, INDEED, AT ONCE SO POWERFUL, SO VIRTUOUS AND MAGNIFICENT, YET SO VICIOUS AND BASE? HE APPEARED AT ONE TIME A MERE SCION OF THE EVIL PRINCIPLE AND AT ANOTHER AS ALL THAT CAN BE CONCEIVED OF NOBLE AND GODLIKE.
A THOUSAND THOUGHTS RAN THROUGH MY HEAD...
FOR A LONG TIME, I COULD NOT CONCEIVE HOW ONE MAN COULD GO FORTH TO MURDER HIS FELLOW, OR EVEN WHY THERE WERE LAWS AND GOVERNMENTS; BUT WHEN I HEARD DETAILS OF VICE AND BLOODSHED, MY WONDER CEASED, AND I TURNED AWAY WITH DISGUST AND LOATHING.
I LEARNED A LOT FROM MY NEIGHBOURS ABOUT HOW THE WORLD WORKED.
WHILE I LISTENED TO THE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH FELIX BESTOWED UPON THE ARABIAN, THE STRANGE SYSTEM OF HUMAN SOCIETY WAS EXPLAINED TO ME. I HEARD OF THE DIVISION OF PROPERTY, AND THE IMMENSE WEALTH AND SQUALID POVERTY UPSET ME.
THAT HUMANITY WAS DIVIDED BY RANK, DESCENT, AND NOBLE BLOOD.
IT SEEMS THAT HE WHO CLAIMS TO BE OF NOBLE, PURE AND WEALTHY ANCESTRY, THAT ONE IS ESTEEMED ABOVE ALL... BUT IF A MAN HAS NEITHER TITLE NOR FORTUNE, WE SEE IN HIM ONLY A VULGAR SLAVE, CONDEMNED TO SERVE THE FEW CHOSEN WEALTHY...
105

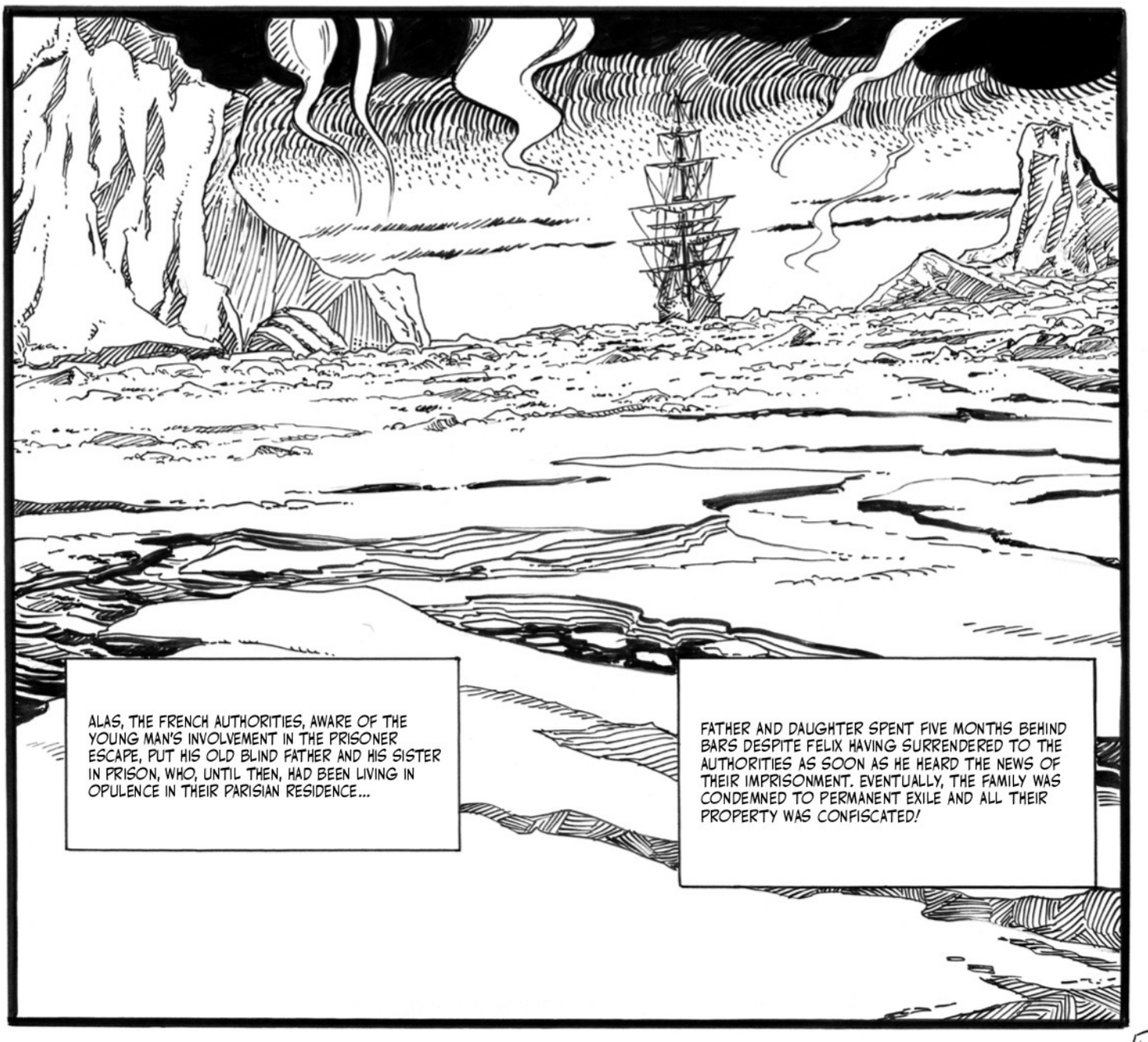

THESE CONTEMPLATIONS LED ME TO QUESTION MYSELF ON WHAT I WAS... WHAT WAS I?
OF MY CREATION AND CREATOR, I WAS ABSOLUTELY IGNORANT, BUT I KNEW THAT I POSSESSED NO MONEY, NO FRIENDS, NO KIND OF PROPERTY. I WAS, BESIDES, ENDUED WITH A FIGURE HIDEOUSLY DEFORMED AND LOATHSOME; I WAS NOT EVEN OF THE SAME NATURE AS MAN. I WAS MORE AGILE THAN THEY AND COULD SUBSIST UPON COARSER DIET; I BORE THE EXTREMES OF HEAT AND COLD WITH LESS INJURY TO MY FRAME.
MY STATURE FAR EXCEEDED THEIRS... AND SORROW ONLY INCREASED WITH KNOWLEDGE.
MY CONFUSION INCREASED CONSIDERABLY WHEN THEY DISCUSSED GIVING BIRTH, AND CHILDBIRTH...
POOR WRETCH THAT I WAS!
WHERE WERE MY PARENTS?
I HAVE NO MEMORY OF A FATHER NOR A MOTHER. WAS I EVER A CHILD? I HAD NO MEMORY OF IT...
I SANK INTO DIZZYING ANGUISH!
105

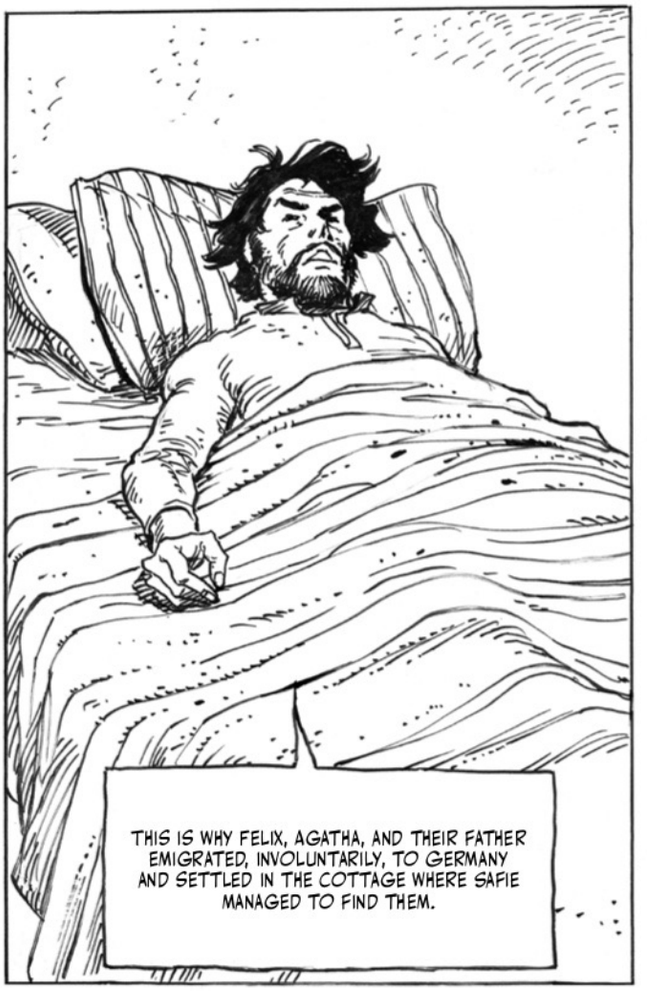

SEPTEMBER 2ND
WHILE THE ICE HAD CLOSED ON THE SHIP, CAPTAIN WALTON, ALONG WITH A FEW OFFICERS, LISTENED TO VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN'S STORY...
BUT WHERE DID THIS TURKISH LADY COME FROM?
IT'S AN INCREDIBLE TALE...
SAFIE, YOU SEE, WAS BOTH THE SOURCE OF FELIX'S AFFLICTION (REMEMBER THAT THE CREATURE SAID HE WAS CONSTANTLY SAD AND MELANCHOLY) AND THAT OF HIS JOY!
BY SOME UNFORTUNATE CHANCE, WHILE HE WAS LIVING IN PARIS, THE YOUNG MAN HAD WITNESSED THE CONDEMNATION OF A RICH TURKISH MERCHANT...
HIS UNFAIR TRIAL REVOLTED FELIX AND HE SWORE TO DO EVERYTHING TO DELIVER THE PERSECUTED MERCHANT, WHO, ACCORDING TO FELIX, WAS CONDEMNED BECAUSE OF HIS ORIGINS, HIS FAITH, AND HIS WEALTH RATHER THAN FOR THE CRIME FOR WHICH HE WAS ACCUSED...
107

...THE TURK WAS PERMITTED TO RECEIVE VISITS IN PRISON. THAT WAS WHERE FELIX MET THE BEAUTIFUL SAFIE!

THEY FELL IN LOVE RIGHT AWAY...

HE THEN ORGANIZED THE MERCHANT'S ESCAPE THE DAY BEFORE HIS EXECUTION, AND THE THREE OF THEM FLED TO LIVORNO, ITALY...

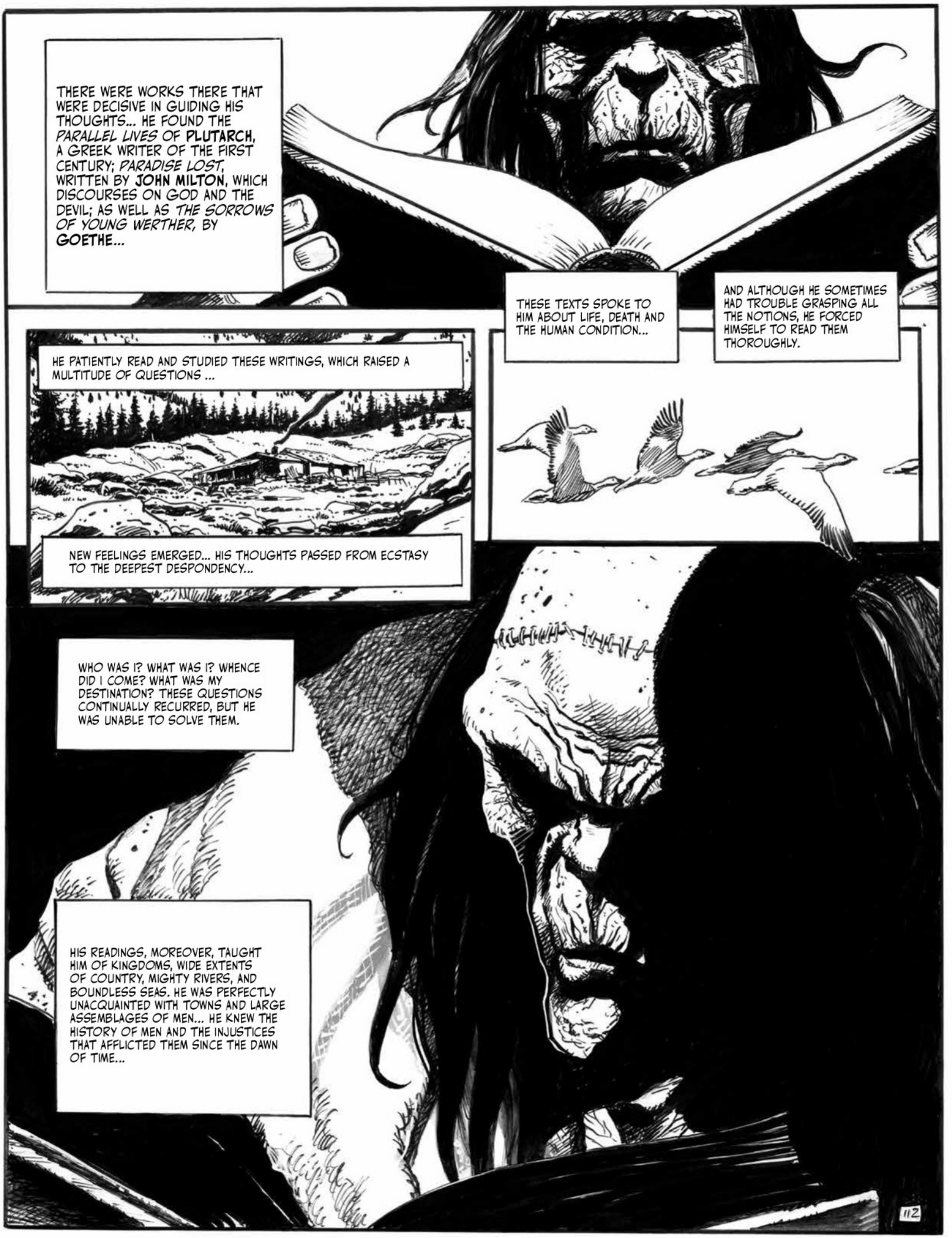

ALAS, THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES, AWARE OF THE YOUNG MAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE PRISONER ESCAPE, PUT HIS OLD BLIND FATHER AND HIS SISTER IN PRISON, WHO, UNTIL THEN, HAD BEEN LIVING IN OPULENCE IN THEIR PARISIAN RESIDENCE...
FATHER AND DAUGHTER SPENT FIVE MONTHS BEHIND BARS DESPITE FELIX HAVING SURRENDERED TO THE AUTHORITIES AS SOON AS HE HEARD THE NEWS OF THEIR IMPRISONMENT. EVENTUALLY, THE FAMILY WAS CONDEMNED TO PERMANENT EXILE AND ALL THEIR PROPERTY WAS CONFISCATED!
108


THIS IS WHY FELIX, AGATHA, AND THEIR FATHER EMIGRATED, INVOLUNTARILY, TO GERMANY AND SETTLED IN THE COTTAGE WHERE SAFIE MANAGED TO FIND THEM.

11

A Gift From Heaven

!
ONE NIGHT, WHEN THE GIANT HAD GONE OUT AS USUAL TO COLLECT HIS FOOD AND FIREWOOD FOR THE COTTAGERS, HE FOUND A CASE..
IT CONTAINED SEVERAL ARTICLES OF DRESS AND SOME BOOKS.
THE BOOKS WERE LIKE A GIFT FROM HEAVEN!
111


THERE WERE WORKS THERE THAT WERE DECISIVE IN GUIDING HIS THOUGHTS... HE FOUND THE *PARALLEL LIVES* OF **PLUTARCH**, A GREEK WRITER OF THE FIRST CENTURY; *PARADISE LOST*, WRITTEN BY **JOHN MILTON**, WHICH DISCOURSES ON GOD AND THE DEVIL; AS WELL AS *THE SORROWS OF YOUNG WERTHER*, BY **GOETHE**...
THESE TEXTS SPOKE TO HIM ABOUT LIFE, DEATH AND THE HUMAN CONDITION...
AND ALTHOUGH HE SOMETIMES HAD TROUBLE GRASPING ALL THE NOTIONS, HE FORCED HIMSELF TO READ THEM THOROUGHLY.
HE PATIENTLY READ AND STUDIED THESE WRITINGS, WHICH RAISED A MULTITUDE OF QUESTIONS ...
NEW FEELINGS EMERGED... HIS THOUGHTS PASSED FROM ECSTASY TO THE DEEPEST DESPONDENCY...
WHO WAS I? WHAT WAS I? WHENCE DID I COME? WHAT WAS MY DESTINATION? THESE QUESTIONS CONTINUALLY RECURRED, BUT HE WAS UNABLE TO SOLVE THEM.
HIS READINGS, MOREOVER, TAUGHT HIM OF KINGDOMS, WIDE EXTENTS OF COUNTRY, MIGHTY RIVERS, AND BOUNDLESS SEAS. HE WAS PERFECTLY UNACQUAINTED WITH TOWNS AND LARGE ASSEMBLAGES OF MEN... HE KNEW THE HISTORY OF MEN AND THE INJUSTICES THAT AFFLICTED THEM SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME...
112

IT WAS AT THIS TIME THAT HE THOUGHT BACK TO THE NOTEBOOK HE HAD KEPT ON HIM, IN THE POCKET OF HIS CAPE...
NOW THAT HE WAS ABLE TO READ, HE BEGAN TO STUDY IT WITH DILIGENCE.
!
THE NOTEBOOK WAS VICTOR'S... HE HAD KEPT A JOURNAL THAT HE WROTE IN AS HE DID HIS WORK. HE WROTE HIS IDEAS, REFLECTIONS, THE PROGRESS OF HIS RESEARCH SINCE THE BEGINNINGS OF HIS PROJECT...
IN VIEW OF WHAT HE DISCOVERED IN THOSE TEXTS, HE SAW HIMSELF AS ALONE, MISERABLE AND ABANDONED... HAPPINESS WAS DENIED HIM... IT WAS FOR OTHERS! THE PROOF OF THIS WAS THE SMALL FAMILY NEXT TO WHICH HE LIVED...
THEY LOVED AND SYMPATHISED WITH ONE ANOTHER; AND THEIR JOYS, DEPENDING ON EACH OTHER. NO ONE LOVED HIM AND HE HAD NO ONE TO LOVE!
113

HE DISCOVERED ALL THE DETAILS ABOUT HIS ACCURSED ORIGIN. HE KNEW HE WAS MADE OF ORGANS TAKEN FROM CORPSES! HE KNEW WHY HE WAS SO HIDEOUS, A HIDEOUS MONSTER OF A MAN! HE SANK INTO A DARK DEPRESSION...

SATAN HAD HIS COMPANIONS, FELLOW DEVILS, TO ADMIRE AND ENCOURAGE HIM, BUT HE WAS SOLITARY AND ABHORRED.

READING THE JOURNAL LITERALLY SHOOK HIM. THE EARTH OPENED BENEATH HIS FEET...! HE BECAME AWARE OF WHAT HE WAS!

HE HELD IN HIS HANDS THE DAMNING, DEAFENING, THUNDEROUS PROOF OF HIS INFAMOUS ORIGIN...

HE WAS BUT AN AGGREGATE, AN ASSEMBLY OF PIECES OF CORPSES, INTO WHICH A MADMAN HAD BREATHED LIFE!

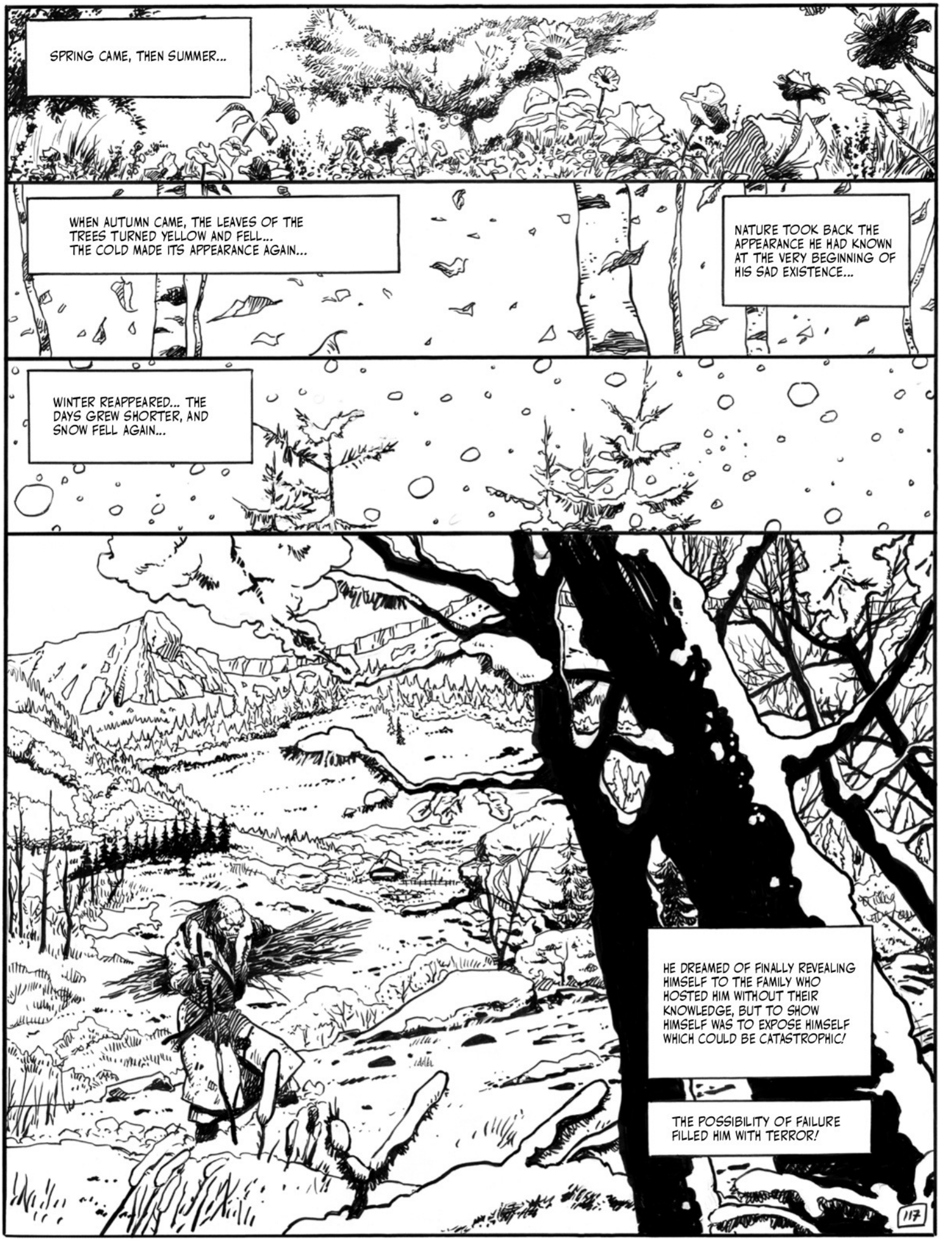
HE UNDERSTOOD WHY THOSE DOGS HAD GONE MAD AS HE APPROACHED. WHY THOSE MEN HAD CHASED HIM.

HE WAS A LIVING DEAD... AN ABERRATION!

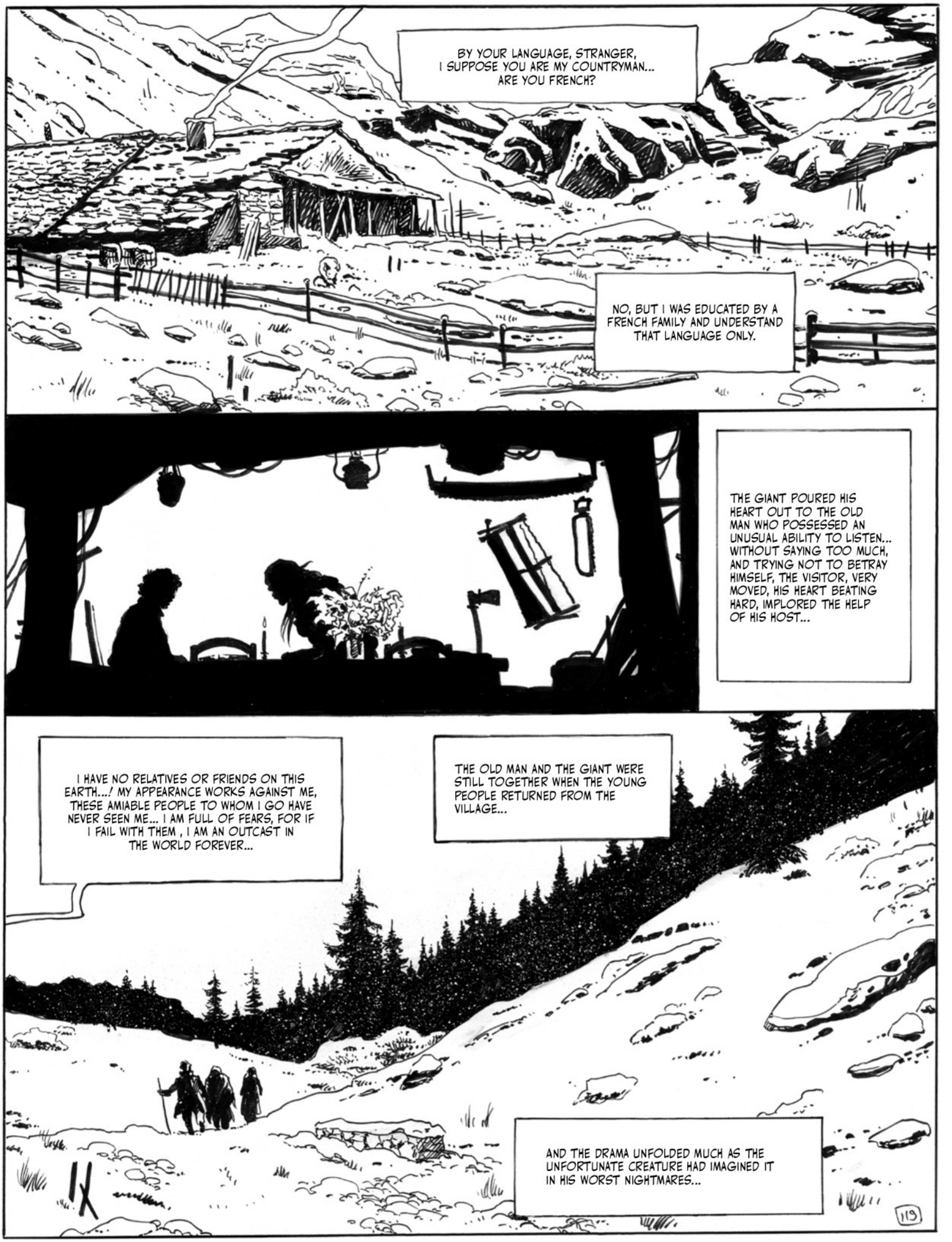
114

MAD WITH RAGE, SEIZED WITH HORROR AND NAUSEA, HE EXPRESSED HIS RESENTMENT...
HATEFUL DAY WHEN I RECEIVED LIFE! WHY DID YOU FORM A MONSTER SO HIDEOUS THAT EVEN YOU TURNED FROM ME IN DISGUST?
ACCURSED CREATOR!
115

IT TOOK HIM DAYS TO SOOTHE HIS ANGUISH...
HE WOULD HAVE MUCH PREFERRED TO NOT KNOW ANYTHING... BUT IT WAS TOO LATE!
HE WAS GOING TO HAVE TO CONTINUE TO LIVE AS AN OUTCAST, ALWAYS RUNNING...
ALWAYS ALONE, A STRANGER EVERYWHERE AND FOREVER REJECTED, AND BANISHED FROM SOCIETY, LIKE A LEPER!
COULD THERE BE A WORSE SENTENCE?
HE WOULD HAVE LIKED SO MUCH TO BE A FRIEND OF MAN! THERE WAS ONLY LOVE AND TENDERNESS IN HIS HEART... ALAS, HE REALIZED THAT THIS WOULD BE FORBIDDEN TO HIM. HIS LIFE WOULD BE NOTHING BUT PAIN AND SUFFERING...
146


SPRING CAME, THEN SUMMER...
WHEN AUTUMN CAME, THE LEAVES OF THE TREES TURNED YELLOW AND FELL... THE COLD MADE ITS APPEARANCE AGAIN...
NATURE TOOK BACK THE APPEARANCE HE HAD KNOWN AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF HIS SAD EXISTENCE...
WINTER REAPPEARED... THE DAYS GREW SHORTER, AND SNOW FELL AGAIN...
HE DREAMED OF FINALLY REVEALING HIMSELF TO THE FAMILY WHO HOSTED HIM WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE, BUT TO SHOW HIMSELF WAS TO EXPOSE HIMSELF WHICH COULD BE CATASTROPHIC!
THE POSSIBILITY OF FAILURE FILLED HIM WITH TERROR!
117

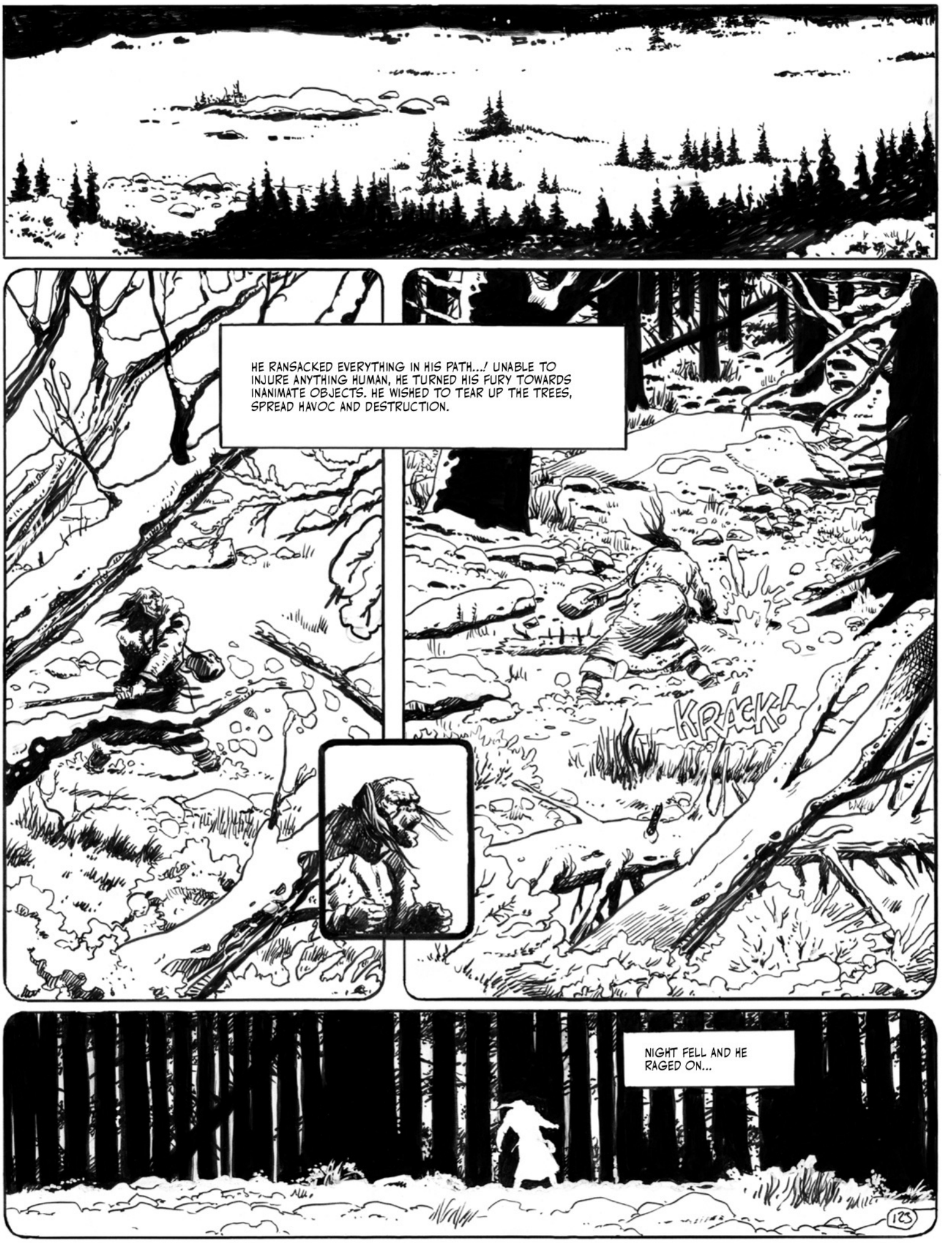
AND THEN WHAT WAS INEVITABLE, HAPPENED.
ONE FATEFUL DAY, THE CREATURE'S EXISTENCE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN. HIS VITAL DESIRE TO CONNECT WITH THE SMALL FAMILY WAS STRONGER THAN HIS APPREHENSION.
THAT DAY, THE GIANT MADE UP HIS MIND: SAFIE, AGATHA, AND FELIX DEPARTED ON A LONG COUNTRY WALK, AND THE OLD MAN, AT HIS OWN DESIRE, WAS LEFT ALONE IN THE COTTAGE...
IN A BURST OF HEROIC COURAGE, THE GIANT WALKED AROUND THE FARM AND PRESENTED HIMSELF BEFORE THE FATHER. THE BLIND OLD MAN COULD NOT SEE THE UGLINESS OF HIS VISITOR, AND HIS VOICE, THOUGH HOARSE, WAS NOT TERRIFYING.
WHO IS THERE? COME IN!
PARDON THIS INTRUSION, I AM A TRAVELLER IN WANT OF A LITTLE REST.
ENTER... UNFORTUNATELY, MY CHILDREN ARE AWAY FROM HOME, AND AS I AM BLIND, I AM AFRAID I SHALL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PROCURE FOOD FOR YOU...
DO NOT TROUBLE YOURSELF, MY KIND HOST; I HAVE FOOD; IT IS WARMTH AND REST ONLY THAT I NEED.
YOU ARE WELCOME, STRANGER. TAKE A SEAT AND SIT DOWN.
118


BY YOUR LANGUAGE, STRANGER, I SUPPOSE YOU ARE MY COUNTRYMAN... ARE YOU FRENCH?
NO, BUT I WAS EDUCATED BY A FRENCH FAMILY AND UNDERSTAND THAT LANGUAGE ONLY.
THE GIANT POURED HIS HEART OUT TO THE OLD MAN WHO POSSESSED AN UNUSUAL ABILITY TO LISTEN... WITHOUT SAYING TOO MUCH, AND TRYING NOT TO BETRAY HIMSELF, THE VISITOR, VERY MOVED, HIS HEART BEATING HARD, IMPLORED THE HELP OF HIS HOST...
I HAVE NO RELATIVES OR FRIENDS ON THIS EARTH...! MY APPEARANCE WORKS AGAINST ME, THESE AMIABLE PEOPLE TO WHOM I GO HAVE NEVER SEEN ME... I AM FULL OF FEARS, FOR IF I FAIL WITH THEM , I AM AN OUTCAST IN THE WORLD FOREVER...
THE OLD MAN AND THE GIANT WERE STILL TOGETHER WHEN THE YOUNG PEOPLE RETURNED FROM THE VILLAGE...
AND THE DRAMA UNFOLDED MUCH AS THE UNFORTUNATE CREATURE HAD IMAGINED IT IN HIS WORST NIGHTMARES...
IX
119

THE INSTANT THE COTTAGE DOOR WAS OPENED, THEY SHOWED HORROR AND CONSTERNATION ON BEHOLDING HIM, A HIDEOUS BEING OF GIGANTIC STATURE WITH THEIR FATHER!
?!!
BACK OFF, YOU! GET AWAY FROM MY FATHER!
?
!
!
AGATHA FAINTED, AND SAFIE RUSHED OUT OF THE COTTAGE.
WRETCH! HOW DARE YOU ATTACK A BLIND OLD MAN!
SCOUNDREL!
THE GIANT HAD ACTED PREMATURELY AND IMPRUDENTLY... HE SHOULD HAVE FAMILIARIZED THE OLD MAN TO HIM BY DEGREES... THEN THE FATHER COULD HAVE PREPARED HIS FAMILY FOR HIS APPROACH...
THE GIANT WAS DEVASTATED! HE DIDN'T EVEN FEEL THE BLOWS THAT FELL ON HIS SKULL! FELIX...! HIS DEAR FELIX BEAT HIM WITH A STICK!
120

THE GIANT, WHO COULD HAVE EASILY CRUSHED THE YOUNG MAN WITH HIS HUGE FISTS, WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RAISE A HAND AGAINST FELIX WHOM HE ADMIRED SO MUCH! INSTEAD, HE RAN AWAY...
THE FAMILY, HIS FAMILY, HAD VIOLENTLY CHASED HIM AWAY! THE ONLY PEOPLE HE KNEW, LOVED, EVEN ADORED, THOSE TO WHOM HE OWED EVERYTHING, WHO HAD OPENED THE MYSTERIES OF EXISTENCE TO HIM, THOSE VERY PEOPLE, HAD JUST REJECTED HIM!
HE WAS CURSED!
12

RUNNING STRAIGHT OUT OF THE COTTAGE, HE FOUND HIMSELF IN THE WOOD... ANGER WAS WELLING UP INSIDE HIM...
HE WANDERED IN THE WOOD, VENTING HIS FURY BY LETTING OUT HORRIBLE HOWLS OF ANGUISH LIKE THOSE OF A WILD BEAST!
¡YAAAAAAAAAARRHHHH!!!!
122


HE RANSACKED EVERYTHING IN HIS PATH...! UNABLE TO INJURE ANYTHING HUMAN, HE TURNED HIS FURY TOWARDS INANIMATE OBJECTS. HE WISHED TO TEAR UP THE TREES, SPREAD HAVOC AND DESTRUCTION.
KRACK!
NIGHT FELL AND HE RAGED ON...
125

I'M CURSED!
I'M DAMNED!
REJECTED AND ABANDONED, HE DECLARED WAR AGAINST THE SPECIES!
AND YOU, TOO! I CURSE YOU A THOUSAND TIMES! WHOEVER YOU ARE, WHEREVER YOU ARE!
...AND IN PARTICULAR, HE WHO HAD FORMED HIM AND SENT HIM FORTH TO THIS INSUPPORTABLE MISERY!
FEELINGS OF VENGEANCE AND HATRED SWELLED HIS HEART FOR THE FIRST TIME.
124

LIFE, FOR THIS BEING WHO DID NOT EVEN HAVE A NAME, WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A SERIES OF DAYS OF PAIN AND BITTERNESS, WANDERING AND LONELINESS...

FROM THAT MOMENT ON, THERE WAS ONLY AFFLICTION AND TORMENT...

WHAT MISFORTUNE AND DESPAIR...

125

12

Rage and Fury

GO! LEAVE! LEAVE THIS PLACE! WHAT POINT IS THERE IN STAYING SOMEWHERE WHERE HE WAS NOT WELCOME...?

BUT GO WHERE?

HE RESOLVES TO GO THERE... IN THE SUITCASE THAT CONTAINED THE BOOKS, THERE HAD BEEN A MAP...

HE CROSSED MOUNTAINS, FORESTS, LAKES AND RIVERS... HE PROCEEDED AS BEST HE COULD, FINDING HIS WAY WITH DIFFICULTY AS IT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION TO ASK INFORMATION OF ANYONE.

IN GENERAL, HE TRAVELLED ONLY AT NIGHT, EXCEPT WHEN HE WALKED IN THE FOREST UNDER THE COVER OF TREES... ONE DAY, HE HEARD THE SOUND OF LAUGHTER, VOICES... HIDING UNDER THE SHADE OF A CYPRESS, HE SAW A YOUNG GIRL RUNNING ALONG THE PRECIPITOUS SIDES OF A RUSHING RIVER...

HE REMEMBERED READING IN VICTOR'S NOTEBOOK, WHICH HE ALWAYS CARRIED WITH HIM, THAT VICTOR WAS FROM GENEVA, SWITZERLAND... GENEVA WAS FOUR HUNDRED KILOMETRES FROM INGOLSTADT...

?

SUDDENLY HER FOOT SLIPPED, AND SHE FELL INTO THE RAPID STREAM.

AAAAHHHHH

H...HELP ME!!

HE RUSHED FROM HIS HIDING-PLACE INTO THE WATER.

HELP!

WITH AN EXTREME EFFORT HE SAVED HER FROM THE ICE COLD CURRENT...

...AND BROUGHT HER SAFELY TO SHORE...

AT THAT MOMENT, THE YOUNG GIRL'S COMPANION APPEARED HOLDING A GUN...

128

THE LITTLE GIRL WAS SENSELESS AND HE TRIED TO RESTORE ANIMATION...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU WRETCH?!

?

HE AIMED HIS GUN AND FIRED!

PANG

BACK OFF SCOUNDREL!

ARRRHH

BUT... WHY?

THE BULLET HAD SHATTERED HIS FLESH AND BONE, INFLICTING MISERABLE PAIN ON THE STUNNED GIANT.

129

THAT WAS THE REWARD OF HIS BENEVOLENCE! RISKING HIS OWN LIFE, HE HAD SAVED A HUMAN BEING FROM DESTRUCTION AND HE WAS SHOT FOR IT!

THE FEELINGS OF KINDNESS AND GENTLENESS WHICH HE HAD ENTERTAINED BUT A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE GAVE PLACE TO HELLISH RAGE AND GNASHING OF TEETH.

INFLAMED BY PAIN, HE VOWED ETERNAL HATRED AND VENGEANCE TO ALL MANKIND. THE BULLET HAD ENTERED HIS SHOULDER, BUT PIERCED HIS SOUL...!

THE AGONY OVERCAME HIM, AND HE FAINTED...
FOR SOME WEEKS HE LED A MISERABLE LIFE IN THE WOODS, SOMETIMES SLEEPING FOR ENTIRE DAYS, ENDEAVOURING TO HEAL THE SHOULDER WOUND WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED.
HIS SUFFERINGS WERE AUGMENTED BY THE OPPRESSIVE SENSE OF THE INJUSTICE AND INGRATITUDE OF THEIR INFLICTION. HIS DAILY VOWS FOR REVENGE ROSE -- A DEEP AND DEADLY REVENGE, SUCH AS WOULD ALONE COMPENSATE FOR THE OUTRAGES AND ANGUISH HE HAD ENDURED.
131

AFTER SOME WEEKS HIS WOUND HEALED.

HE OWED HIS SURVIVAL TO HIS EXCEPTIONAL RESISTANCE... ANY OTHER BEING WOULD HAVE DIED.

HE CONTINUED HIS ROUTE, FULL OF RESENTMENT TOWARDS THE HUMAN RACE...

IN HIS DREAMS, HE SAW HIMSELF STRANGLING INDISTINCT INDIVIDUALS, TEARING THEM LIMB FROM LIMB, CRUSHING THEM WITH HIS ARMS, QUARTERING THEM...
HE, WHO HAD HITHERTO FORBIDDEN HIMSELF TO KILL ANY LIVING BEING, CONSIDERED THAT TAKING LIFE WAS AN INCONCEIVABLE ACT FOR ANYONE WITH A CONSCIENCE, HAD TURNED INTO A TERRIBLE PREDATOR!

FOR MONTHS HE WANDERED, GNAWED BY HUNGER, DEEPLY CHILLED BY THE COLD...

HE WALKED IN THE MOUNTAINS LIKE AN ENGINE, WITH A MECHANICAL STEP, DEVOURED BY IMMEASURABLE FURY.

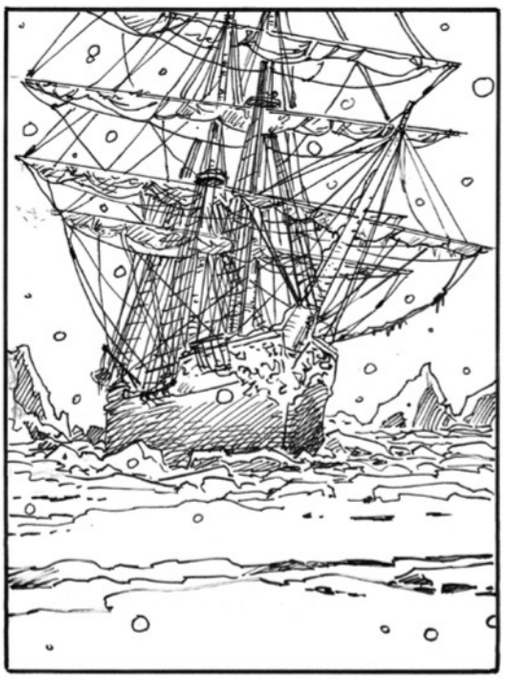
HE WHO, UNTIL NOW, HAD ONLY HAD THE APPEARANCE OF A MONSTER, HAD, IN ACTUALITY, BECOME ONE... ALL THAT WAS MISSING WAS THE BEHAVIOUR, WHICH, ALAS, WAS NOT LONG IN COMING!

TWO MONTHS LATER, HE ARRIVED IN THE ENVIRONS OF GENEVA...

SEPTEMBER 5TH 1600 HOURS.

TEMPERATURE: - 35 °F
THIRTY-SIX DAYS SINCE VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN HAS BEEN ON BOARD...

CAPTAIN WALTON'S SHIP HAS BEEN IMMOBILIZED IN THE PACK ICE FOR FORTY-EIGHT HOURS...

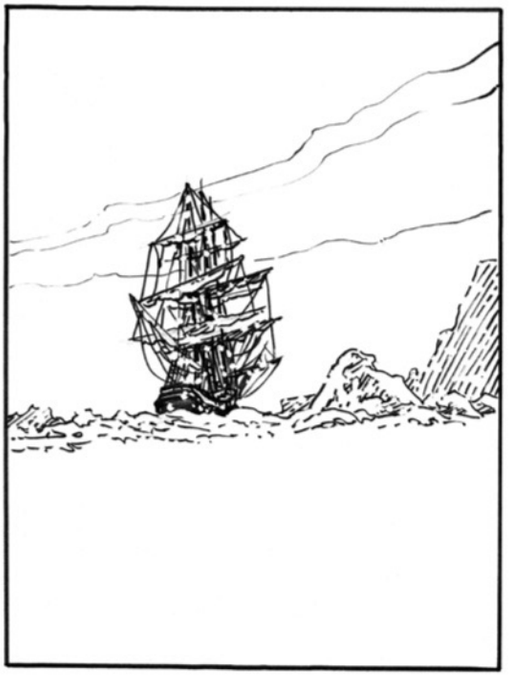


BUT TELL ME, VICTOR... HOW IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN CAN YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE LIFE OF YOUR... CREATURE? SO MUCH DETAIL...

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?

A TERRIBLE EVENT BROUGHT US TOGETHER. IT IS FROM THAT EVENT THAT I LEARNED ALL I HAVE TOLD YOU SO FAR.

...WE MET UP ON THE MONT BLANC GLACIER....



ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO CONTINUE? I CAN SEE YOU ARE QUITE EXHAUSTED, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST TO PUT THIS OFF FOR NOW...

NO, I MUST RECOUNT EVERYTHING WHILE I STILL CAN!

134

YOU ARE TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS TERRIBLE STORY. YOU WILL SEE HOW FAR MY RECKLESSNESS HAS LED ME...
I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM MY FATHER INFORMING ME OF A GREAT MISFORTUNE: MY YOUNGER BROTHER WILLIAM HAD BEEN FOUND MURDERED IN THE FOREST BORDERING THE FAMILY ESTATE!
WILLIAM! THAT CHILD, THAT SWEET, DELIGHTFUL, ADORABLE CHILD, HAD BEEN STRANGLED!
I HADN'T SEEN MY YOUNGER BROTHER IN YEARS AND THE BLOW WAS TERRIBLE! HIS TRAGIC DEATH SHOCKED ME... HOW COULD WE IMAGINE A WORSE CRIME THAN THE MURDER OF SUCH RADIANT INNOCENCE?!
HENRY CLERVAL WAS WITH ME WHEN I HEARD THE HORRIBLE NEWS... WE LEFT INGOLSTADT FOR GENEVA WITHIN THE HOUR!
!
135

WHAT HAPPENED?
THE GIANT, WHO WAS ASLEEP IN A RECESS IN A FIELD, WAS DISTURBED BY THE APPROACH OF A BEAUTIFUL CHILD.
URGED BY THIS IMPULSE, HE SEIZED ON THE BOY AS HE PASSED.
AAAAAHH!
CHILD, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? I DO NOT INTEND TO HURT YOU.
AS SOON AS HE BEHELD HIS FORM, THE CHILD PLACED HIS HANDS BEFORE HIS EYES AND UTTERED A SHRILL SCREAM.
BUT THE PANICKED CHILD STRUGGLED VIOLENTLY, SCREAMING...
136

LET ME GO, MONSTER! UGLY WRETCH!
LET ME GO, OR I WILL TELL MY PAPA!. MY PAPA IS MISTER FRANKENSTEIN -- HE WILL PUNISH YOU!
?
HEARING THE NAME OF FRANKENSTEIN, THE COLOSSUS UNDERSTOOD THAT HE HELD A RELATIVE OF HIS CREATOR IN HIS HANDS! HE SQUEEZED THE BOY'S THROAT HARD. THE MORE HE SQUEEZED, THE MORE HIS HEART SWELLED WITH JOY!
THE MOMENT THE GIANT LET HIM GO AND HE FELL DEAD AT HIS FEET, THE MONSTER EXULTATED IN HELLISH TRIUMPH.
I TOO CAN CREATE DESOLATION!
MY ENEMY WILL ALSO KNOW THE BITTER TASTE OF DESPAIR.
137

THEN HE SAW SOMETHING GLITTERING ON THE CHILD'S BREAST.
!
THE CHILD HAD A MEDALLION AROUND HIS NECK...
A FEW HOURS LATER, AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST, THE GIANT ENTERED A BARN WHERE HE FOUND A WOMAN SLEEPING IN SOME STRAW.
139

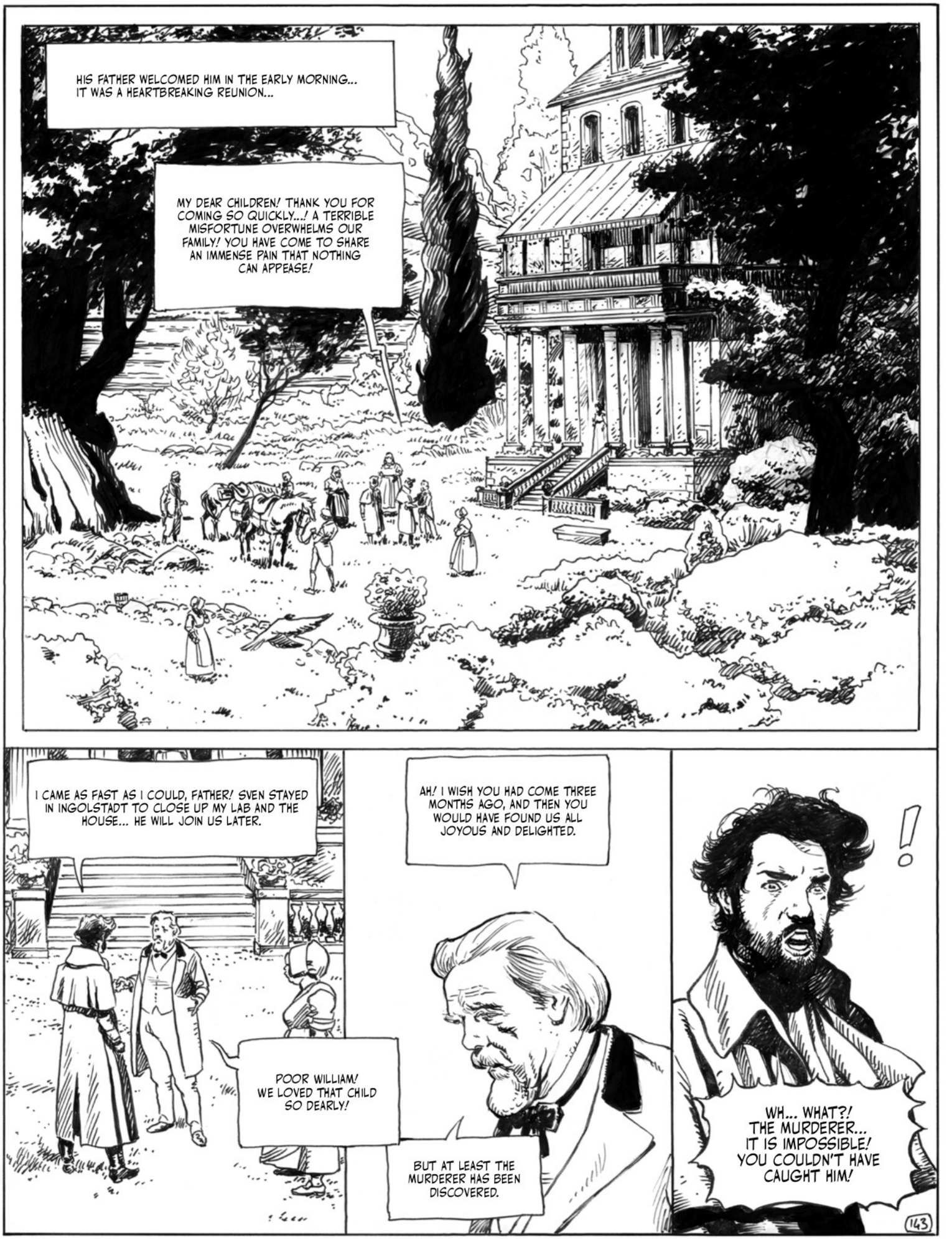
HE HAD AN EVIL IDEA...
HAVE HER ACCUSED IN HIS PLACE!
HE BENT OVER HER AND PLACED THE PORTRAIT SECURELY IN ONE OF THE FOLDS OF HER DRESS AND FLED.
139

13

Geneva

IT WAS COMPLETELY DARK WHEN VICTOR AND HIS FRIEND CLERVAL ARRIVED IN THE ENVIRONS OF GENEVA...
A STORM APPROACHED... BLINDING LIGHTING FLASHES STREAKED THE NIGHT SKY.
NEARLY SIX YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE THE YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN HAD LEFT FOR INGOLSTADT... HIS RETURN JOURNEY WAS VERY MELANCHOLY.
VICTOR DISMOUNTED IN ORDER TO OBSERVE THE STORM'S PROGRESS... IT STARTED TO RAIN... HE WAS ON A LOW HILL WHEN HE PERCEIVED, IN THE GLOOM, A FIGURE WHICH STOLE FROM BEHIND A CLUMP OF TREES NEARBY. VICTOR RECOGNIZED IT IMMEDIATELY.
A FLASH OF LIGHTNING ILLUMINATED THE OBJECT AND ITS SHAPE WAS PLAINLY CLEAR TO HIM; ITS GIGANTIC STATURE, INSTANTLY INFORMED HIM THAT IT WAS THE WRETCH, THE FILTHY DEMON, TO WHOM HE HAD GIVEN LIFE!
141

WHAT WAS HE DOING HERE? COULD HE BE HIS BROTHER'S MURDERER?
ANOTHER FLASH DISCOVERED HIM TO ME HANGING AMONG THE ROCKS OF THE NEARLY PERPENDICULAR ASCENT OF MONT SALÈVE. HE SOON REACHED THE SUMMIT AND DISAPPEARED.
VICTOR REMAINED PARALYZED BY THE APPARITION. HE WASN'T IMAGINING IT... IN AN INSTANT, THE EVENTS WHICH HE HAD UNTIL NOW SOUGHT TO FORGET REVOLVED IN HIS MIND.
!
AN IMMENSE ANGUISH GRIPPED HIM... THIS CURSED CREATURE, LIKE A VAMPIRE, HAD COME BACK TO HAUNT HIM AND, HE WAS CERTAIN, WAS GOING TO DESTROY ALL THAT WAS DEAR TO HIM!
TWO YEARS HAD ELAPSED SINCE THE NIGHT THE MONSTER FIRST RECEIVED LIFE...
142


HIS FATHER WELCOMED HIM IN THE EARLY MORNING... IT WAS A HEARTBREAKING REUNION...
MY DEAR CHILDREN! THANK YOU FOR COMING SO QUICKLY...! A TERRIBLE MISFORTUNE OVERWHELMS OUR FAMILY! YOU HAVE COME TO SHARE AN IMMENSE PAIN THAT NOTHING CAN APPEASE!
I CAME AS FAST AS I COULD, FATHER! SVEN STAYED IN INGOLSTADT TO CLOSE UP MY LAB AND THE HOUSE... HE WILL JOIN US LATER.
POOR WILLIAM! WE LOVED THAT CHILD SO DEARLY!
AH! I WISH YOU HAD COME THREE MONTHS AGO, AND THEN YOU WOULD HAVE FOUND US ALL JOYOUS AND DELIGHTED.
BUT AT LEAST THE MURDERER HAS BEEN DISCOVERED.
!
WH... WHAT?! THE MURDERER... IT IS IMPOSSIBLE! YOU COULDN'T HAVE CAUGHT HIM!
143

VICTOR WAS EXTREMELY SURPRISED. THE KILLER HAD BEEN CAUGHT! JUSTINE MORITZ, A SERVANT, WHO WAS SO AMIABLE, AND FOND OF ALL THE FAMILY. ONE OF THE OTHER SERVANTS, HAD DISCOVERED, IN HER POCKET, THE PICTURE OF WILLIAM'S MOTHER, WHICH HAD BEEN JUDGED TO BE THE TEMPTATION OF THE MURDERER... JUSTINE IS THE ACCUSED!

VICTOR, HOWEVER, DID NOT BELIEVE ANY OF IT... HE HAD SEEN THE TRUE CULPRIT THE NIGHT BEFORE. HE WAS FREE! BUT HOW COULD HE EXPOSE WHAT HE KNEW WITHOUT IT SOUNDING LIKE THE RAVINGS OF INSANITY?!

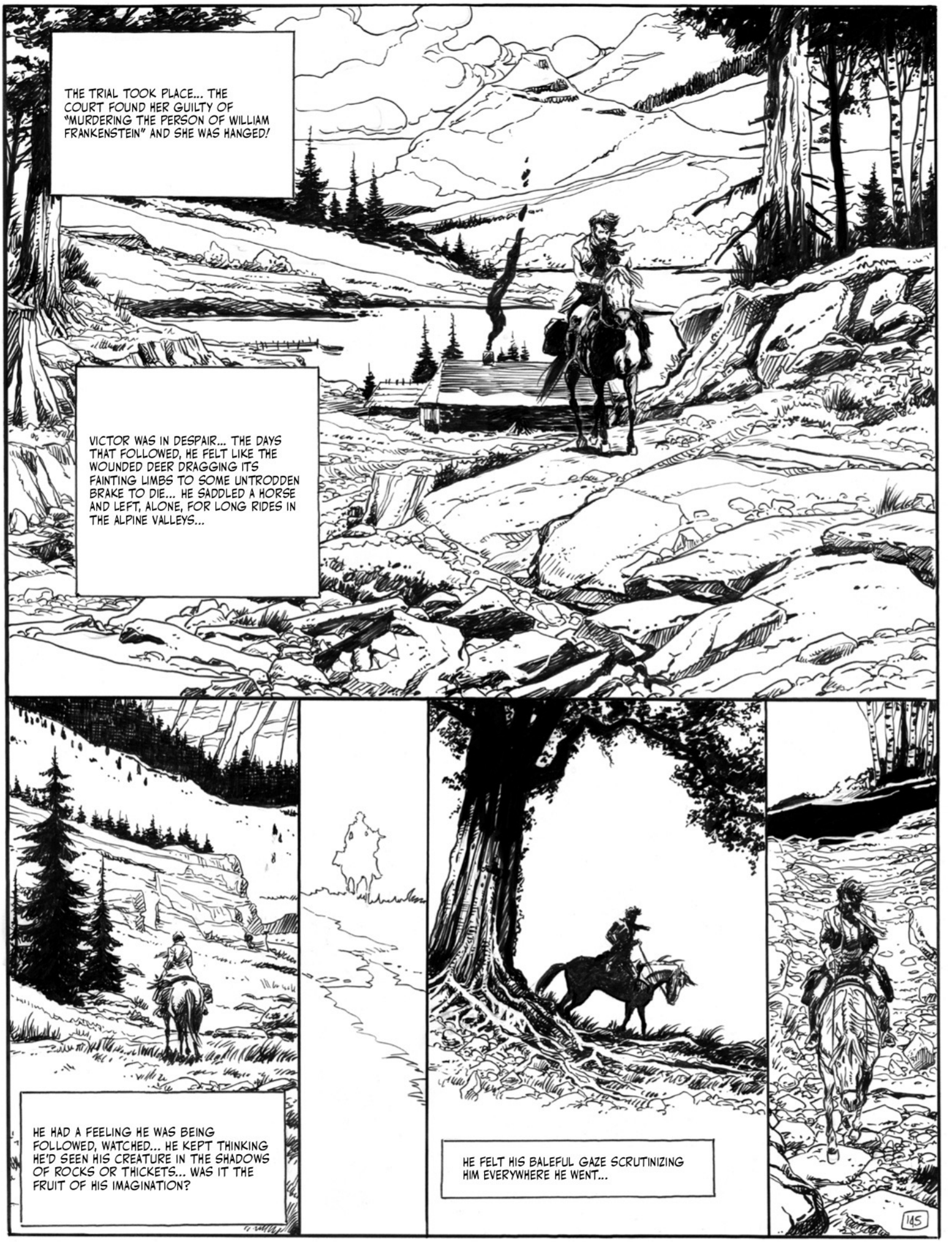
VICTOR!

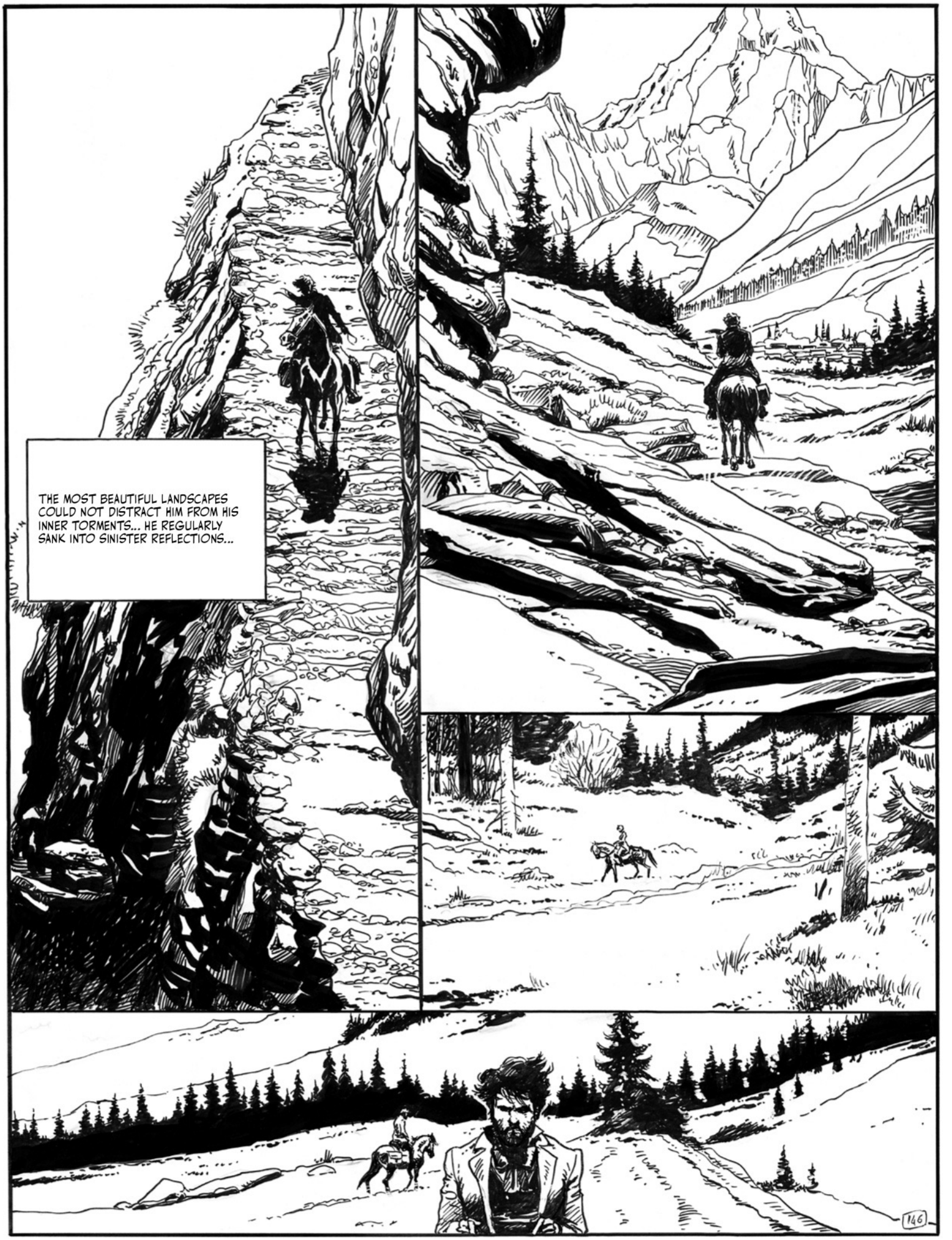
ELIZABETH!

THEY WERE SOON JOINED BY ELIZABETH, HIS BETROTHED SINCE THEIR EARLY CHILDHOOD... TIME HAD ENDOWED HER WITH LOVELINESS SURPASSING THE BEAUTY OF HER CHILDISH YEARS....

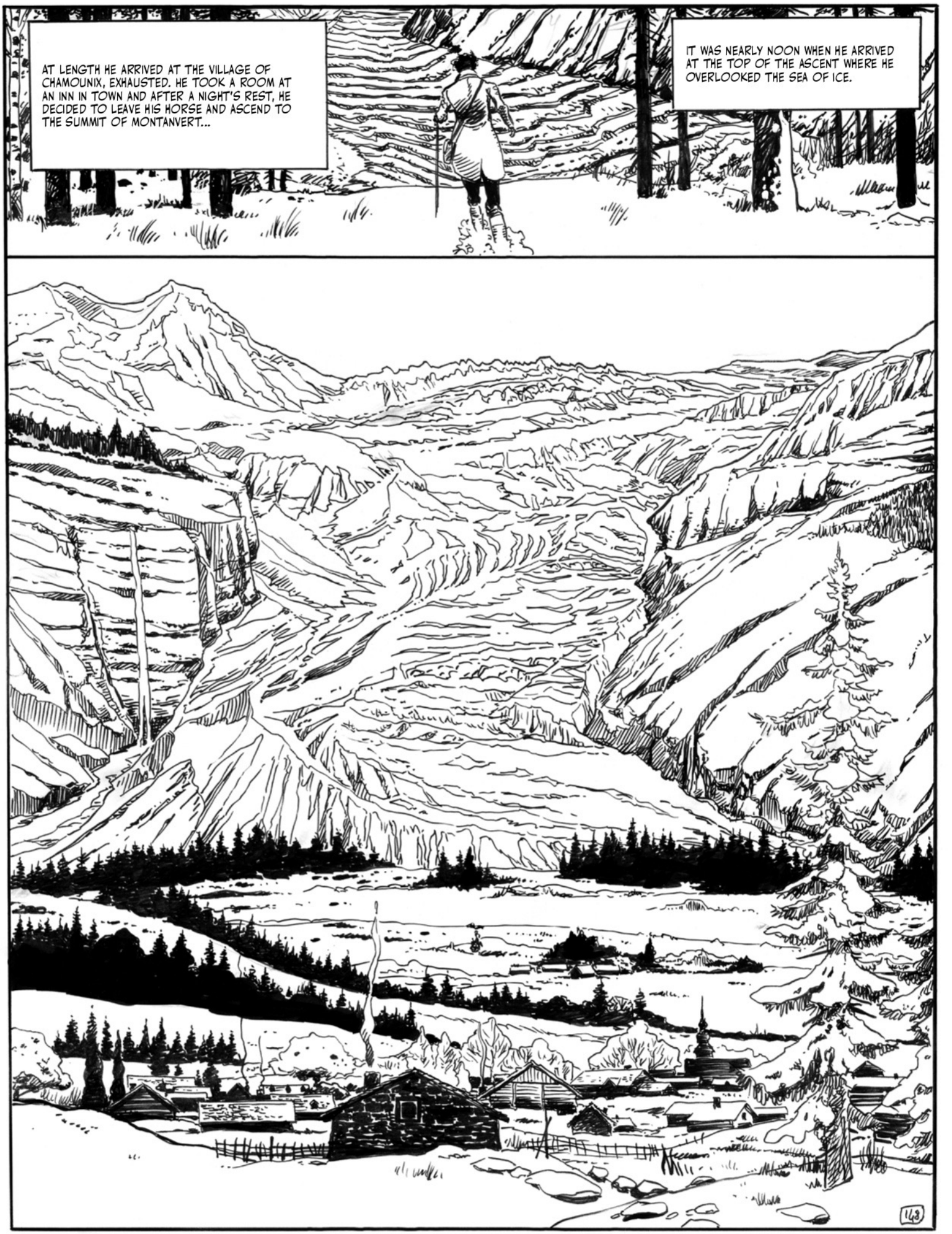
ELIZABETH WELCOMED VICTOR WITH THE GREATEST AFFECTION BUT WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES... SHE COULD ONLY THINK OF JUSTINE... THE TWO YOUNG WOMEN HAD KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR MANY YEARS AND SHE COULD NOT BELIEVE IN HER GUILT.

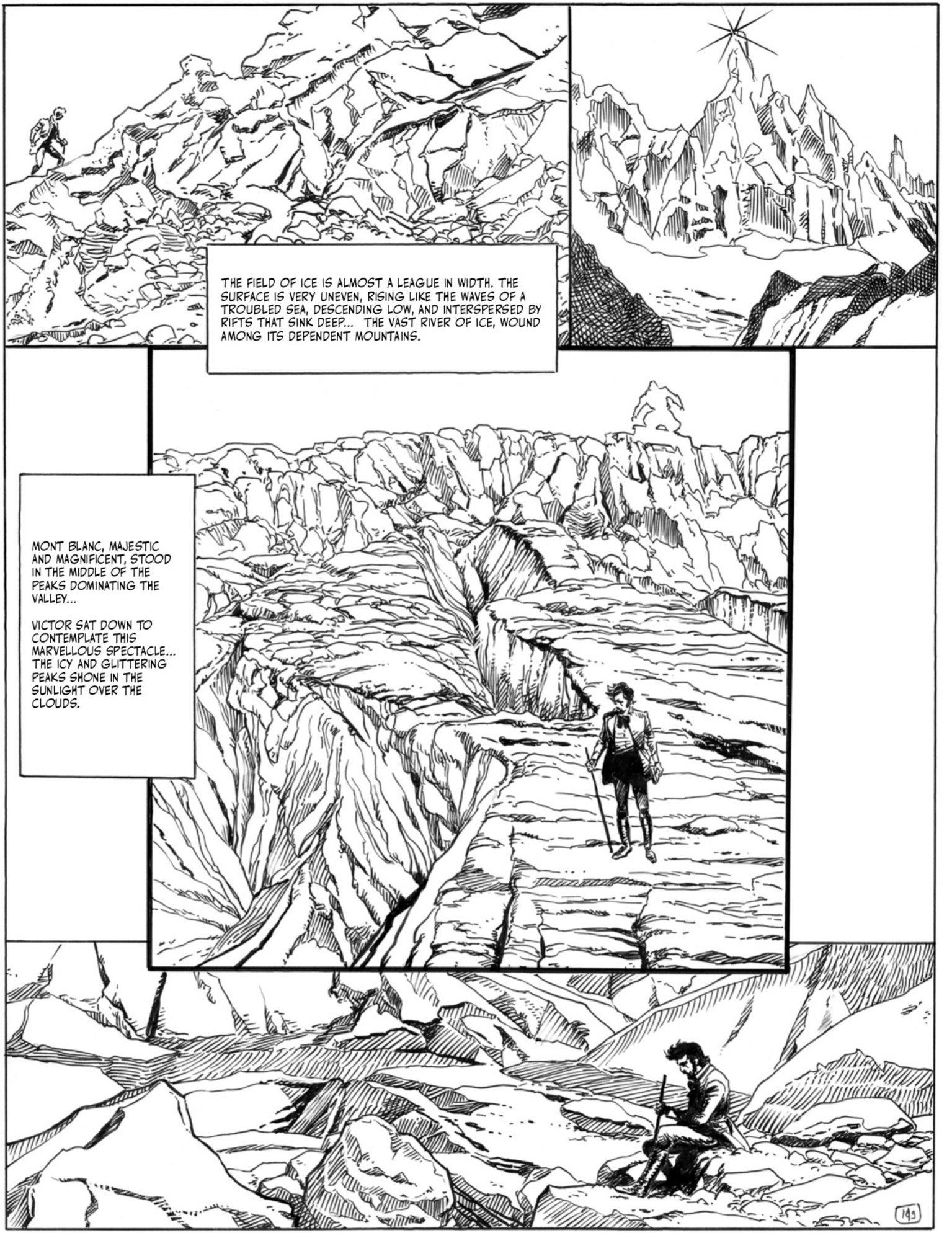
IF JUSTINE WERE CONVICTED, THE SENTENCE WOULD BE DEATH BY HANGING! VICTOR KNEW WITH CERTAINTY THAT THE CULPRIT COULD ONLY BE HIS CURSED MONSTER! IF THE SERVANT WERE TO BE EXECUTED, THE FAULT WOULD LIE WITH HIM!

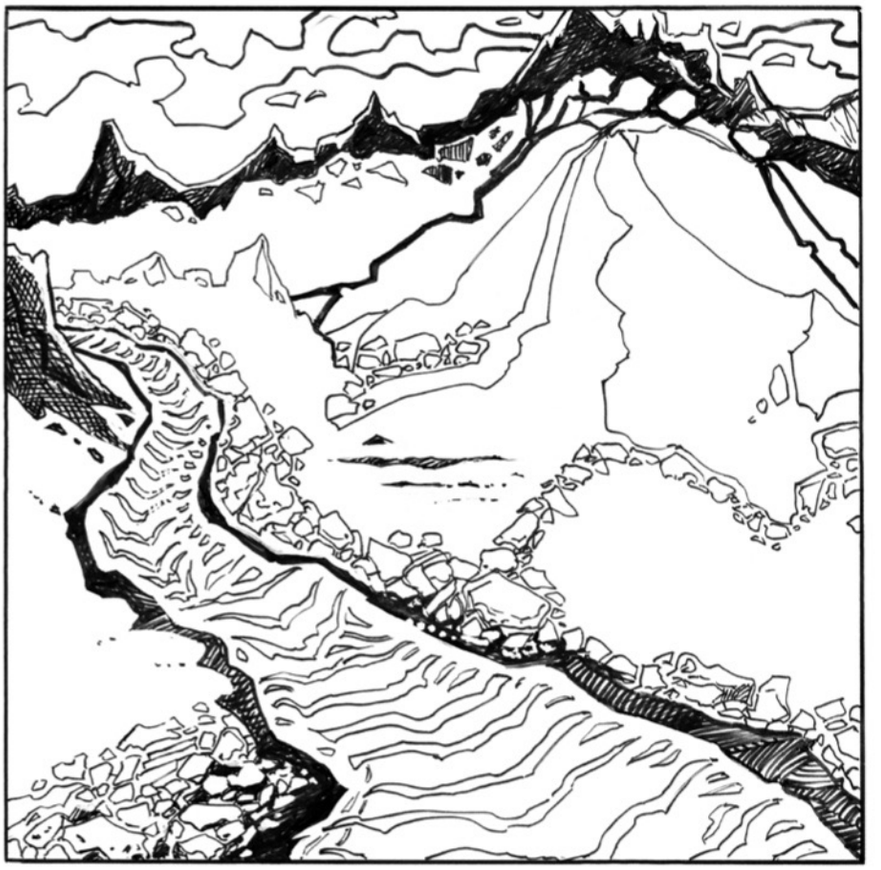

THE TRIAL TOOK PLACE... THE COURT FOUND HER GUILTY OF "MURDERING THE PERSON OF WILLIAM FRANKENSTEIN" AND SHE WAS HANGED!
VICTOR WAS IN DESPAIR... THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, HE FELT LIKE THE WOUNDED DEER DRAGGING ITS FAINTING LIMBS TO SOME UNTRODDEN BRAKE TO DIE... HE SADDLED A HORSE AND LEFT, ALONE, FOR LONG RIDES IN THE ALPINE VALLEYS...
HE HAD A FEELING HE WAS BEING FOLLOWED, WATCHED... HE KEPT THINKING HE'D SEEN HIS CREATURE IN THE SHADOWS OF ROCKS OR THICKETS... WAS IT THE FRUIT OF HIS IMAGINATION?
HE FELT HIS BALEFUL GAZE SCRUTINIZING HIM EVERYWHERE HE WENT...
145


THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES COULD NOT DISTRACT HIM FROM HIS INNER TORMENTS... HE REGULARLY SANK INTO SINISTER REFLECTIONS...
146

HIS WANDERINGS WERE DIRECTED TOWARDS THE VALLEY OF CHAMONIX, WHERE HE HAD VISITED FREQUENTLY IN HIS BOYHOOD... THE WEATHER WAS FINE, IT WAS ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH OF AUGUST... NEARLY TWO MONTHS SINCE THE DEATH OF JUSTINE...
THE IMMENSE MOUNTAINS AND PRECIPICES THAT OVERHUNG HIM ON EVERY SIDE, THE SOUND OF THE RIVER RAGING AMONG THE ROCKS, AND THE DASHING OF THE WATERFALLS, ALL THIS WONDERFUL WORLD DID, SLOWLY, HELP HIM TO OVERCOME HIS ANXIETY, HIS UNEASINESS...
147


AT LENGTH HE ARRIVED AT THE VILLAGE OF CHAMOUNIX, EXHAUSTED. HE TOOK A ROOM AT AN INN IN TOWN AND AFTER A NIGHT'S REST, HE DECIDED TO LEAVE HIS HORSE AND ASCEND TO THE SUMMIT OF MONTANVERT...
IT WAS NEARLY NOON WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE TOP OF THE ASCENT WHERE HE OVERLOOKED THE SEA OF ICE.
143


THE FIELD OF ICE IS ALMOST A LEAGUE IN WIDTH. THE SURFACE IS VERY UNEVEN, RISING LIKE THE WAVES OF A TROUBLED SEA, DESCENDING LOW, AND INTERSPERSED BY RIFTS THAT SINK DEEP... THE VAST RIVER OF ICE, WOUND AMONG ITS DEPENDENT MOUNTAINS.
MONT BLANC, MAJESTIC AND MAGNIFICENT, STOOD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PEAKS DOMINATING THE VALLEY...
VICTOR SAT DOWN TO CONTEMPLATE THIS MARVELLOUS SPECTACLE... THE ICY AND GLITTERING PEAKS SHONE IN THE SUNLIGHT OVER THE CLOUDS.



14

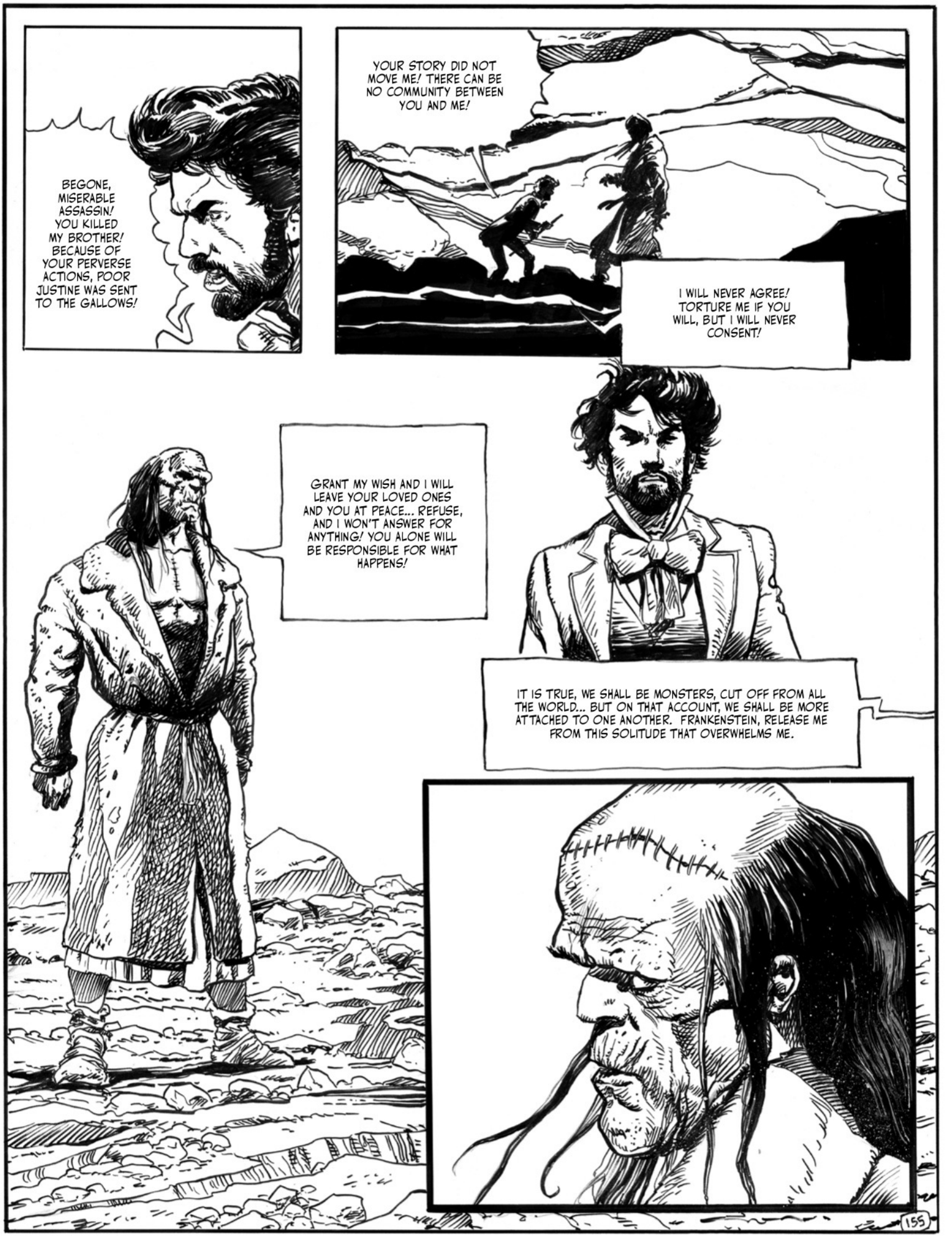
The Encounter

HE SUDDENLY BEHELD THE FIGURE OF A MAN, AT SOME DISTANCE, ADVANCING TOWARDS HIM WITH SUPERHUMAN SPEED.
!
HE BOUNDED OVER THE CREVICES IN THE ICE LIKE A CHAMOIS...
IN A FEW LEAPS, THE GIGANTIC BEING WAS ON TOP OF HIM... RECOGNIZING WITH HORROR THAT IT WAS THE WRETCH WHOM HE HAD CREATED. VICTOR LOST CONSCIOUSNESS...
BUT.. IT'S... IT'S...
WHEN HE CAME TO A MOMENT LATER, THE GIANT WAS BENDING OVER HIM...
151

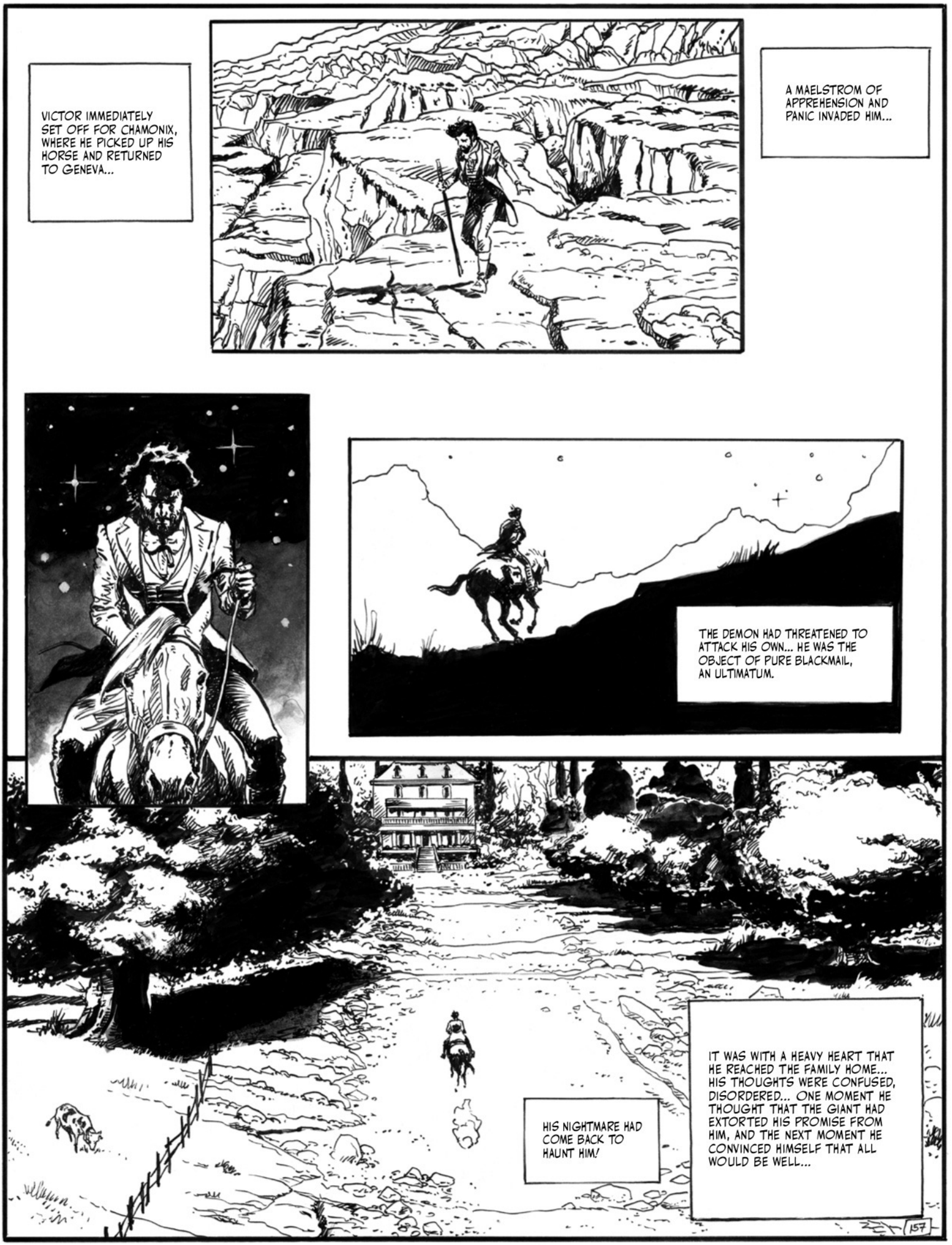
WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME, DEMON? ASSASSIN! DEVIL WORSHIPPER! I SHOULD KILL YOU! YOU DARE APPROACH ME?
I EXPECTED THIS RECEPTION!... I COULD CRUSH YOU LIKE A BUG, BUT THAT WOULD BE TOO EASY!
HOW DARE YOU SPORT THUS WITH LIFE? DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU CONDEMNED ME TO?! CAN YOU IMAGINE THE MISERY TO WHICH I HAVE BEEN DOOMED?!
!!
BUT... YOU SPEAK, DEMON...! BY WHAT SORCERY HAVE YOU ACQUIRED SPEECH?!
IT IS A LONG STORY...
I SPEAK, YES, AND IT IS NO THANKS TO YOU.
LISTEN TO MY TALE, YOU WILL BETTER UNDERSTAND THE REQUEST I AM GOING TO MAKE OF YOU, THE REASON WHY I WANTED TO FIND YOU AND WHAT I EXPECT FROM YOU!
152

AND IT WAS THEN THAT VICTOR'S CREATURE TOLD HIM HIS STORY: HIS LIFE WHICH HAD BEEN NOTHING BUT AN ACCUMULATION OF ANGUISH AND SUFFERING... ALL HIS MISFORTUNE...
THE GIANT'S TELLING LASTED FOR HOURS... A LONG SILENCE FOLLOWED... VICTOR SAID NOTHING... THE GIANT WAS FULL OF APPREHENSION...
IT IS THE CRUELTY OF THE WORLD THAT HAS MADE ME AN EVIL BEING!
YOU MUST CREATE ME A *COMPANION!*
153

I AM THE FALLEN ANGEL, WHO, WITHOUT HAVING PERFORMED A MISDEED IS IRREVOCABLY EXCLUDED ANY JOY! I WAS BENEVOLENT AND GOOD... MISERY MADE ME A FIEND!
I AM YOUR CREATURE, VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN, AND YOU SHOULD DO YOUR DUTY TOWARDS ME...! I AM, IN A WAY, YOUR ADAM... I DEMAND MY EVE...!
YOU OWE ME RESTITUTION! ONE AS HIDEOUS AS MYSELF, REJECTED BY EVERYONE AS I AM, WOULD NOT DENY HERSELF TO ME.
A... A FEMALE?! YOU'RE ASKING ME TO CREATE FOR YOU A FEMALE?!
NO, DEMON! I SHALL NEVER AGREE TO CREATE ANOTHER LIKE YOURSELF! YOU ARE A MURDERER, AND WITH A WOMAN BY YOUR SIDE, YOU WILL THEN HAVE A COMPANION TO AID YOU IN THE TASK OF DESTRUCTION!
154

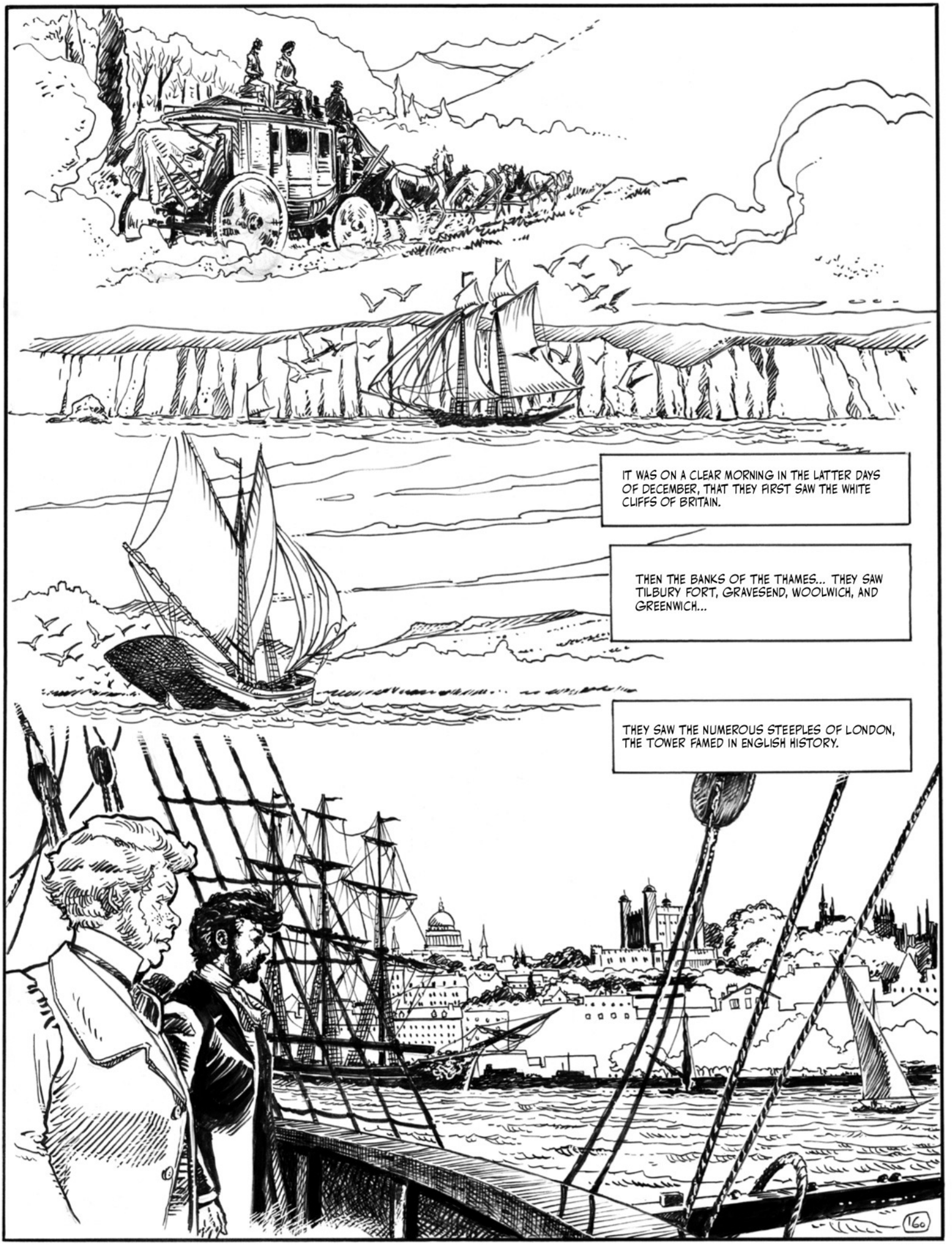

BEGONE, MISERABLE ASSASSIN! YOU KILLED MY BROTHER! BECAUSE OF YOUR PERVERSE ACTIONS, POOR JUSTINE WAS SENT TO THE GALLOWS!
YOUR STORY DID NOT MOVE ME! THERE CAN BE NO COMMUNITY BETWEEN YOU AND ME!
I WILL NEVER AGREE! TORTURE ME IF YOU WILL, BUT I WILL NEVER CONSENT!
GRANT MY WISH AND I WILL LEAVE YOUR LOVED ONES AND YOU AT PEACE... REFUSE, AND I WON'T ANSWER FOR ANYTHING! YOU ALONE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS!
IT IS TRUE, WE SHALL BE MONSTERS, CUT OFF FROM ALL THE WORLD... BUT ON THAT ACCOUNT, WE SHALL BE MORE ATTACHED TO ONE ANOTHER. FRANKENSTEIN, RELEASE ME FROM THIS SOLITUDE THAT OVERWHELMS ME.
155

OH! MY CREATOR, ONLY YOU CAN MAKE ME HAPPY!
NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT!
GIVE IN TO MY PLEA AND NO ONE WILL SUFFER THROUGH MY FAULT. AND ABOVE ALL, WE WILL NEVER BE SEEN AGAIN! MY COMPANION AND I WILL GO TO THE VAST WILDS OF SOUTH AMERICA WHERE WE CAN SURVIVE!
THESE WORDS FINALLY PRODUCED THEIR EFFECT AND SHOOK VICTOR'S DETERMINATION... HE CONSENTED TO HIS DEMAND, BUT ON THE CONDITION OF HIS SOLEMN OATH TO LEAVE EUROPE AS SOON AS HE IS DELIVERED HIS COMPANION!
I SWEAR! DEPART TO YOUR HOME AND COMMENCE YOUR LABOURS; I SHALL WATCH YOUR PROGRESS AND WHEN YOU ARE READY, I SHALL APPEAR!
SAYING THIS, HE LEFT, AND DESCEND THE MOUNTAIN WITH GREATER SPEED THAN THE FLIGHT OF AN EAGLE AND WAS QUICKLY LOST AMONG THE UNDULATIONS OF THE SEA OF ICE.
156

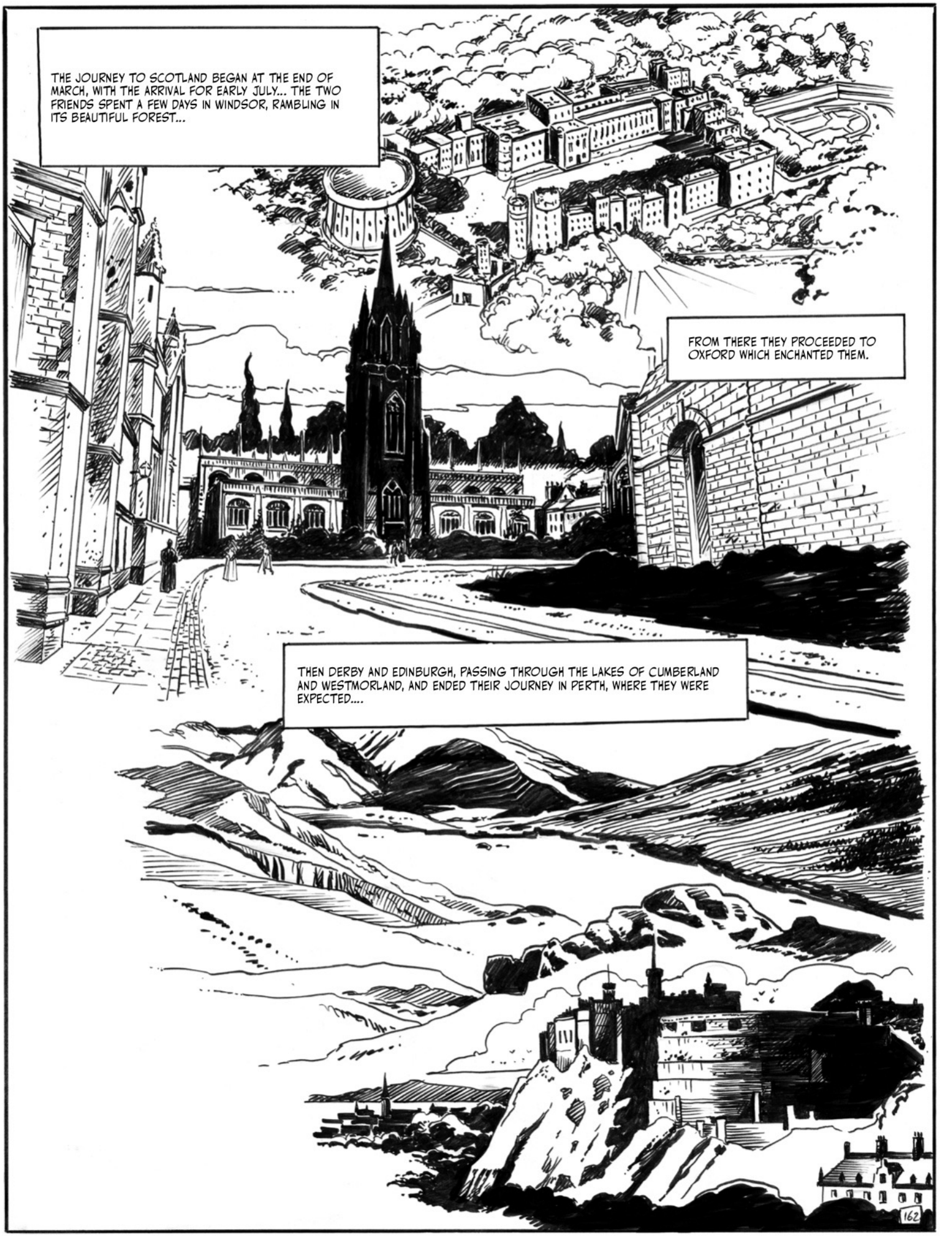

VICTOR IMMEDIATELY SET OFF FOR CHAMONIX, WHERE HE PICKED UP HIS HORSE AND RETURNED TO GENEVA...
A MAELSTROM OF APPREHENSION AND PANIC INVADED HIM...
THE DEMON HAD THREATENED TO ATTACK HIS OWN... HE WAS THE OBJECT OF PURE BLACKMAIL, AN ULTIMATUM.
HIS NIGHTMARE HAD COME BACK TO HAUNT HIM!
IT WAS WITH A HEAVY HEART THAT HE REACHED THE FAMILY HOME... HIS THOUGHTS WERE CONFUSED, DISORDERED... ONE MOMENT HE THOUGHT THAT THE GIANT HAD EXTORTED HIS PROMISE FROM HIM, AND THE NEXT MOMENT HE CONVINCED HIMSELF THAT ALL WOULD BE WELL...
157

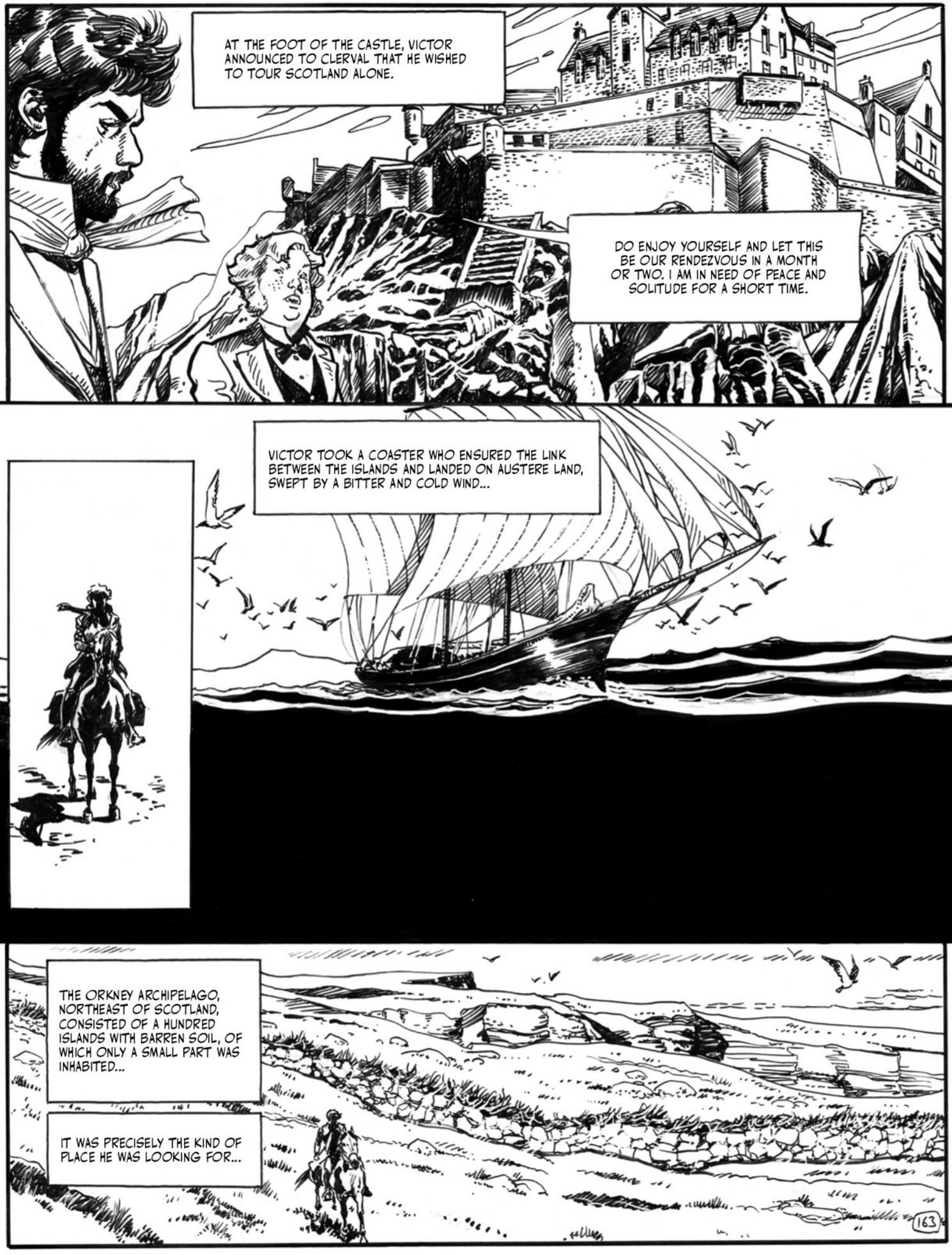
HIS FATHER WAS ALARMED BY HIS HAGGARD AND WILD APPEARANCE, BUT VICTOR ANSWERED NO QUESTIONS.
DAYS TURNED INTO WEEKS AND HE COULD NOT COLLECT THE COURAGE TO RECOMMENCE HIS WORK. PERPLEXED, HE REMAINED IRRESOLUTE...
SOMETIME LATER, CLERVAL SUGGESTED HE ACCOMPANY HIM TO ENGLAND WHERE HIS LINGUISTIC STUDIES CALLED HIM... THE INVITATION WAS TIMELY FOR VICTOR WHO WAS LOOKING FOR ANY EXCUSE TO POSTPONE HIS OBLIGATIONS TO HIS CREATURE...
SVEN WOULD GO TO INGOLSTADT TO RECOVER INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT TO CREATE A MAKESHIFT LAB, WHICH HE WOULD TRANSPORT TO ENGLAND...
VICTOR'S FATHER DID NOT APPROVE OF THIS DEPARTURE. HE WISHED TO HASTEN HIS SON'S UNION WITH ELIZABETH... IT WAS FINALLY AGREED THAT THEIR MARRIAGE WOULD BE CELEBRATED UPON THE YOUNG MAN'S RETURN...
158

THE TRIP WAS ORGANIZED AS FOLLOWS: FIRST STRASBOURG, THEN ROTTERDAM, AND FROM THERE, THE TWO MEN WOULD JOIN ENGLAND...
THE DEPARTURE TOOK PLACE AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER...
AS THEY SET OFF, VICTOR WAS AS DESPONDENT AND SORROWFUL AS EVER, WHICH CONTRASTED GREATLY WITH CLERVAL'S CHEERFUL MOOD...
EN ROUTE THEY STAYED A DAY AT MANNHEIM, THEN STOPPED IN MAINZ. THE COURSE OF THE RHINE BELOW MAINZ BECOMES MUCH MORE PICTURESQUE.... BEYOND COLOGNE THEY DESCENDED TO THE PLAINS OF HOLLAND... AND THEY RESOLVED TO HASTEN THE REMAINDER OF THEIR WAY BY LAND... ONCE IN ROTTERDAM, THEY PROCEEDED BY SEA TO ENGLAND.
159


IT WAS ON A CLEAR MORNING IN THE LATTER DAYS OF DECEMBER, THAT THEY FIRST SAW THE WHITE CLIFFS OF BRITAIN.
THEN THE BANKS OF THE THAMES... THEY SAW TILBURY FORT, GRAVESEND, WOOLWICH, AND GREENWICH...
THEY SAW THE NUMEROUS STEEPLES OF LONDON, THE TOWER FAMED IN ENGLISH HISTORY.
160

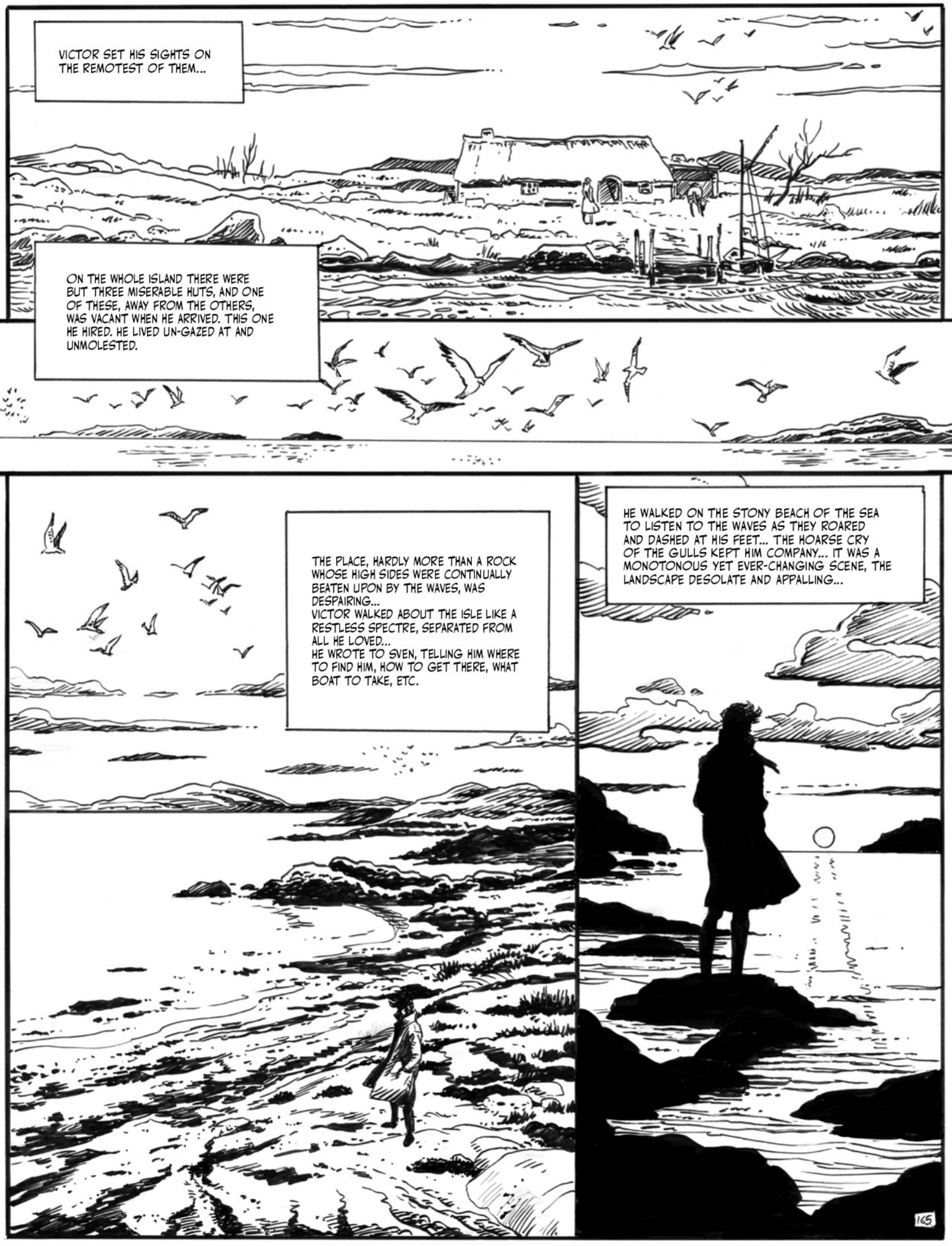
THE TWO FRIENDS SPENT SEVERAL MONTHS IN THE CAPITAL... CLERVAL WANTED TO MEET SOME MEN OF GENIUS AND TALENT THAT FLOURISHED AT THE TIME...
AS FOR VICTOR, HE STARTED LOOKING FOR DISTINGUISHED NATURAL PHILOSOPHERS WHO COULD BRING HIM NEW TECHNIQUES... HE CARRIED A DARK MOOD, OBSESSED WITH HIS TERRIBLE TASK...
AN ACQUAINTANCE OF CLERVAL, A SCOTTISH SCHOLAR, INVITED THEM TO HIS CASTLE IN PERTH, SCOTLAND...
THE IDEA EXCITED HENRY WHO DREAMED OF VISITING THE NORTH OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND... AS FOR VICTOR, HE HAD TO FIND A PLACE CONDUCIVE TO CARRYING OUT HIS TASK... DAYS PASSED, HIS ANXIETY GREW... HE COULDN'T PROCRASTINATE ANYMORE...
THE MENACING SHADOW OF HIS CREATURE HOVERED OVER HIM... HE HAD MANAGED NOT TO SAY ANYTHING TO HIS FRIEND...
161


THE JOURNEY TO SCOTLAND BEGAN AT THE END OF MARCH, WITH THE ARRIVAL FOR EARLY JULY... THE TWO FRIENDS SPENT A FEW DAYS IN WINDSOR, RAMBLING IN ITS BEAUTIFUL FOREST...
FROM THERE THEY PROCEEDED TO OXFORD WHICH ENCHANTED THEM.
THEN DERBY AND EDINBURGH, PASSING THROUGH THE LAKES OF CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND, AND ENDED THEIR JOURNEY IN PERTH, WHERE THEY WERE EXPECTED....
162


AT THE FOOT OF THE CASTLE, VICTOR ANNOUNCED TO CLERVAL THAT HE WISHED TO TOUR SCOTLAND ALONE.
DO ENJOY YOURSELF AND LET THIS BE OUR RENDEZVOUS IN A MONTH OR TWO. I AM IN NEED OF PEACE AND SOLITUDE FOR A SHORT TIME.
VICTOR TOOK A COASTER WHO ENSURED THE LINK BETWEEN THE ISLANDS AND LANDED ON AUSTERE LAND, SWEPT BY A BITTER AND COLD WIND...
THE ORKNEY ARCHIPELAGO, NORTHEAST OF SCOTLAND, CONSISTED OF A HUNDRED ISLANDS WITH BARREN SOIL, OF WHICH ONLY A SMALL PART WAS INHABITED...
IT WAS PRECISELY THE KIND OF PLACE HE WAS LOOKING FOR...
163

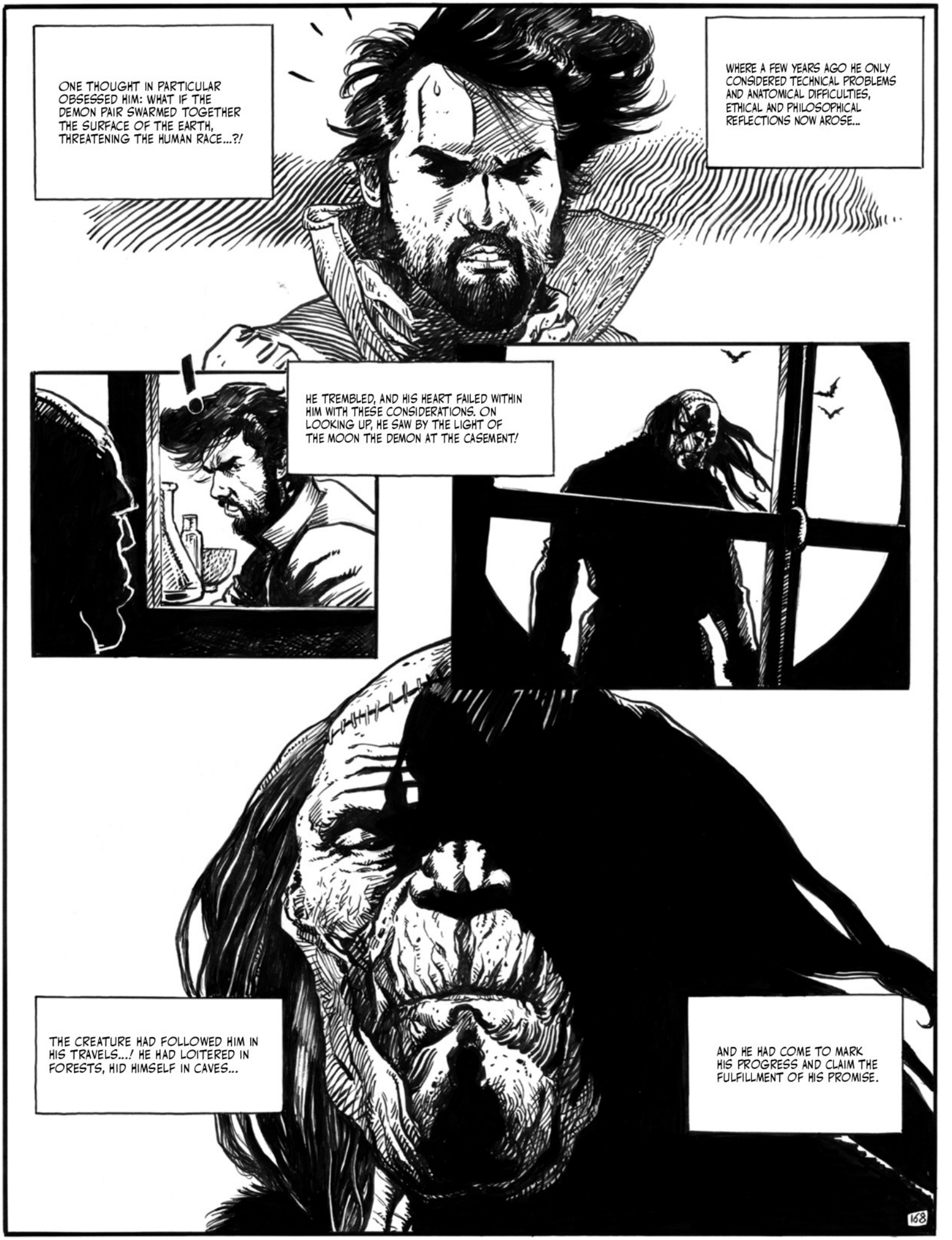
15

The Orkneys

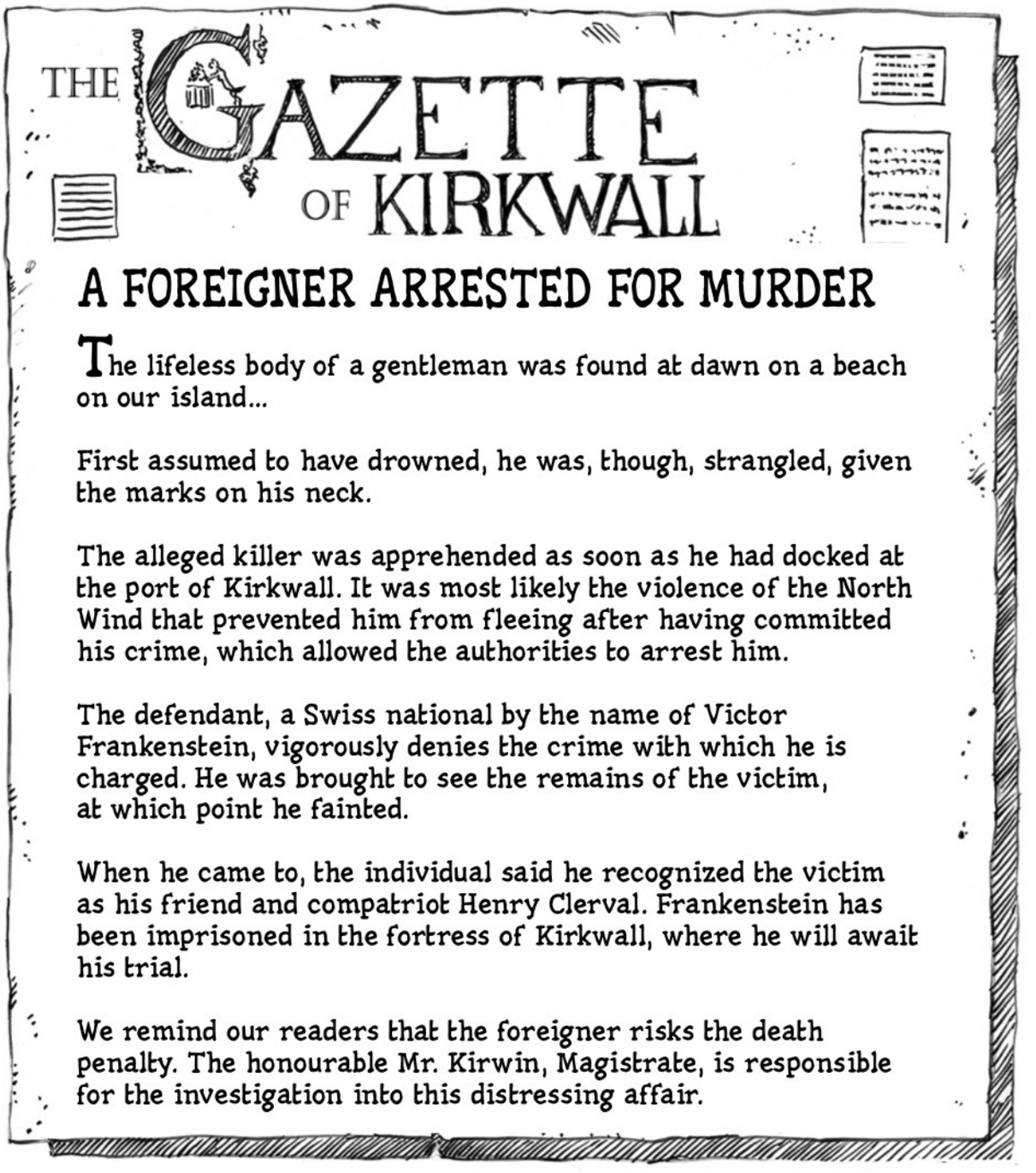

VICTOR SET HIS SIGHTS ON THE REMOTEST OF THEM...
ON THE WHOLE ISLAND THERE WERE BUT THREE MISERABLE HUTS, AND ONE OF THESE, AWAY FROM THE OTHERS, WAS VACANT WHEN HE ARRIVED. THIS ONE HE HIRED. HE LIVED UN-GAZED AT AND UNMOLESTED.
THE PLACE, HARDLY MORE THAN A ROCK WHOSE HIGH SIDES WERE CONTINUALLY BEATEN UPON BY THE WAVES, WAS DESPAIRING...
VICTOR WALKED ABOUT THE ISLE LIKE A RESTLESS SPECTRE, SEPARATED FROM ALL HE LOVED...
HE WROTE TO SVEN, TELLING HIM WHERE TO FIND HIM, HOW TO GET THERE, WHAT BOAT TO TAKE, ETC.
HE WALKED ON THE STONY BEACH OF THE SEA TO LISTEN TO THE WAVES AS THEY ROARED AND DASHED AT HIS FEET... THE HOARSE CRY OF THE GULLS KEPT HIM COMPANY... IT WAS A MONOTONOUS YET EVER-CHANGING SCENE, THE LANDSCAPE DESOLATE AND APPALLING...
165

THE WAIT WAS INTERMINABLE... EVERY MOMENT HE FEARED TO MEET HIS PERSECUTOR... HAD THE FIEND FOLLOWED HIM JUST TO THE ORKNEYS? HAD HE REMAINED IN SWITZERLAND TO WREAK HIS VENGEANCE ON HIS RELATIVES? SVEN'S ARRIVAL ENDED HIS GLOOMY RUMINATIONS...
OOOOOH, HELLO!
MASTER VICTOR!
LET'S NOT WASTE ANY TIME IN UNLOADING THIS EQUIPMENT, DEAR SVEN!
SVEN! AT LAST! YOU'RE HERE!
I BELIEVE I HAVE BROUGHT EVERYTHING YOU REQUESTED, MASTER VICTOR... ALL THAT IS MISSING IS THE CORPSES!
THE NEW LAB WAS SET UP IN A FEW DAYS... THEY WERE ALMOST READY...
MAINLAND IS THE LARGEST OF THE ORKNEY ISLANDS... IT ALSO HAS THE LARGEST POPULATION... KIRKWALL IS MAINLAND'S MAIN PORT... IT ALSO HAS A CEMETERY...
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, THE TWO MEN SET OFF...
166

THEY DUG UP THE REMAINS OF RECENTLY DECEASED YOUNG WOMEN, AS THEY HAD DONE WITH MALE BODIES THREE YEARS EARLIER IN INGOLSTADT, TO CREATE VICTOR'S CREATURE...
DAYS PASSED, THE WORK PROGRESSED, BECOMING MORE AND MORE ODIOUS...
THE NEXT DAY, BACK IN THE LAB WITH HIS MACABRE BOOTY, VICTOR, WITH A HEAVY HEART, FINALLY SET TO WORK...
ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, HE DESERTED HIS LAB, SO REPUGNANT WAS HIS PROJECT...
SINISTER CONSIDERATIONS THAT HE HAD NOT HAD WHEN DESIGNING HIS FIRST CREATURE NOW TORTURED HIM...
167

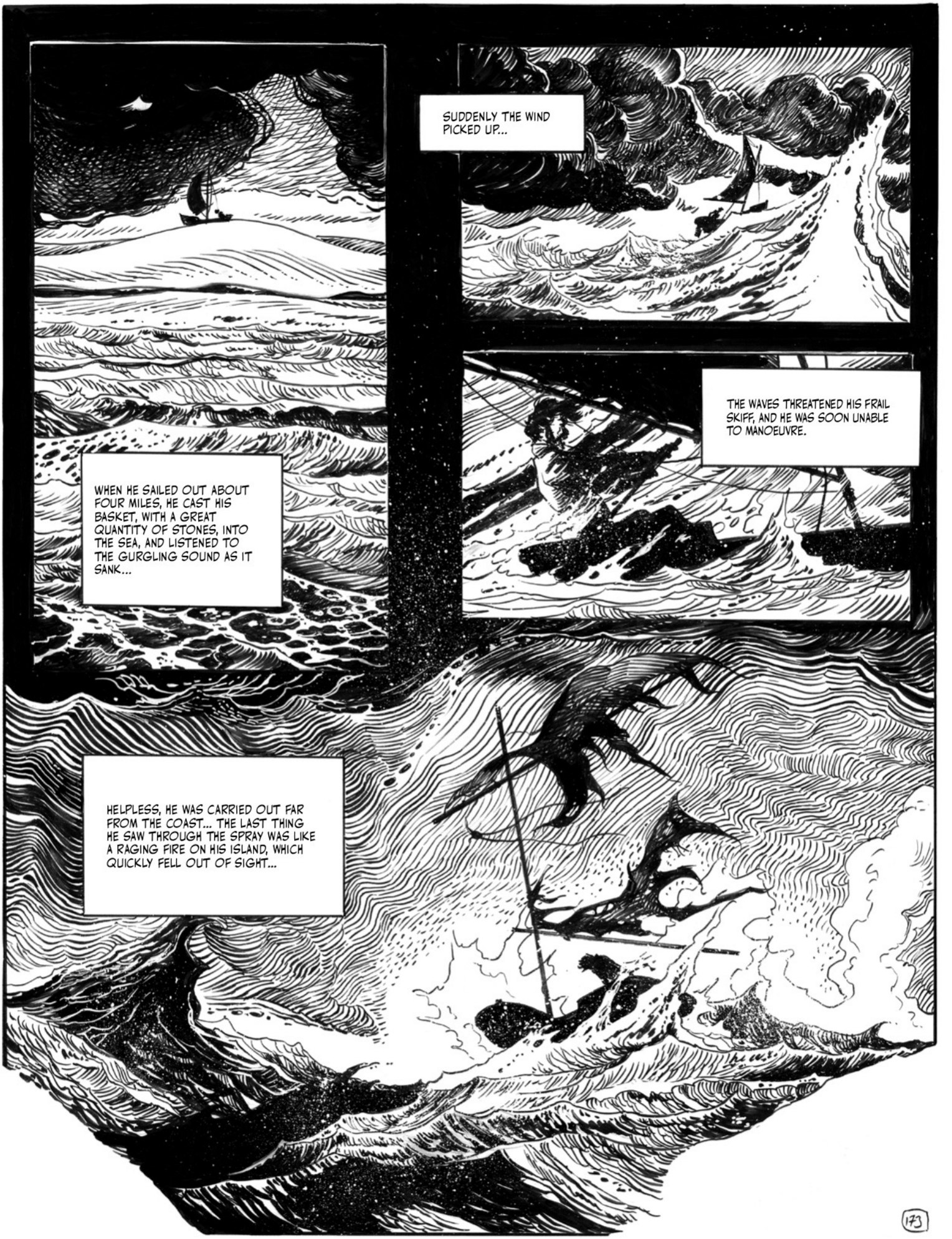

ONE THOUGHT IN PARTICULAR OBSESSED HIM: WHAT IF THE DEMON PAIR SWARMED TOGETHER THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH, THREATENING THE HUMAN RACE...?!
WHERE A FEW YEARS AGO HE ONLY CONSIDERED TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND ANATOMICAL DIFFICULTIES, ETHICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL REFLECTIONS NOW AROSE...
HE TREMBLED, AND HIS HEART FAILED WITHIN HIM WITH THESE CONSIDERATIONS. ON LOOKING UP, HE SAW BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON THE DEMON AT THE CASEMENT!
THE CREATURE HAD FOLLOWED HIM IN HIS TRAVELS...! HE HAD LOITERED IN FORESTS, HID HIMSELF IN CAVES...
AND HE HAD COME TO MARK HIS PROGRESS AND CLAIM THE FULFILLMENT OF HIS PROMISE.
168

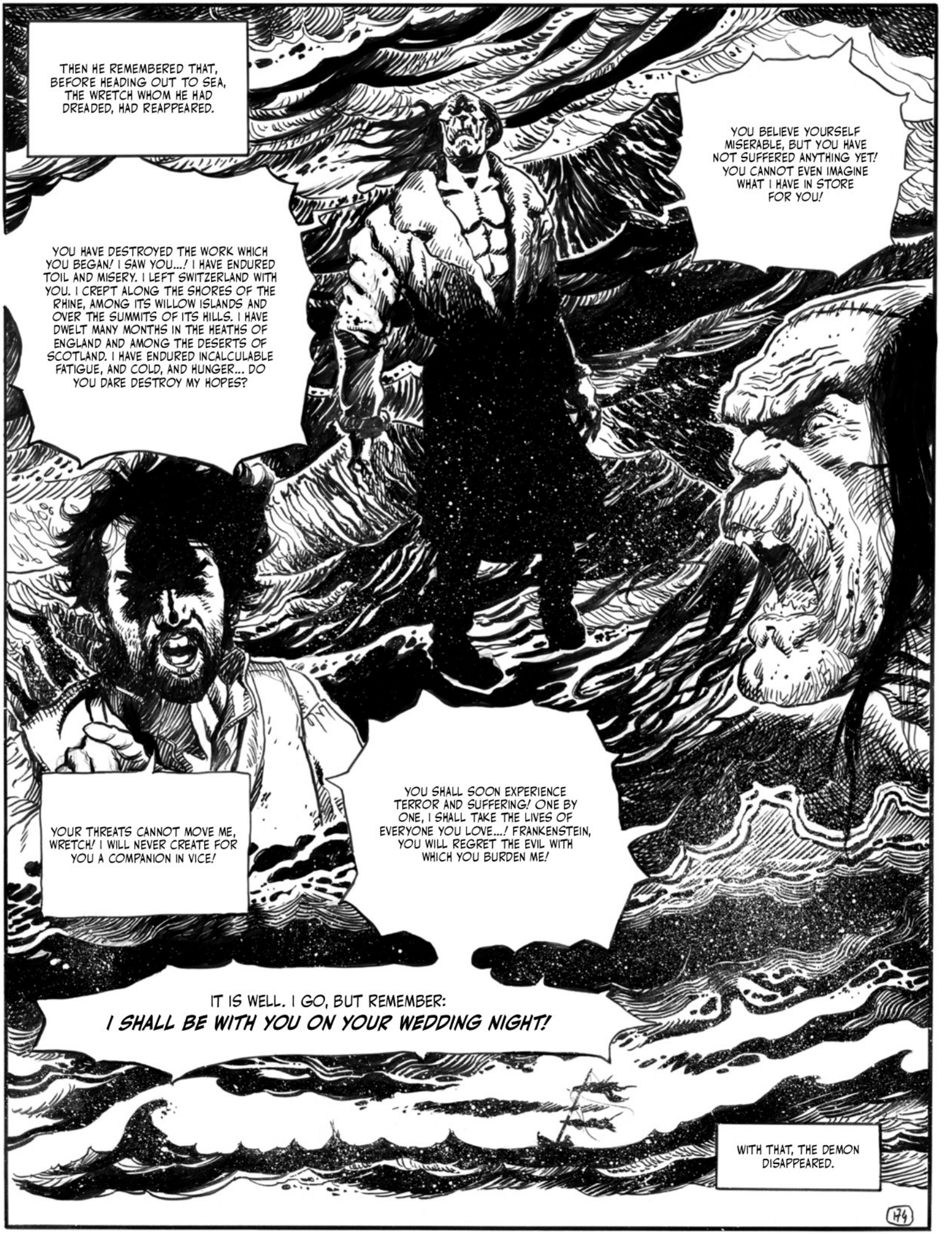
OVERTAKEN BY A SUDDEN RAGE, BUILDING FOR MONTHS, VICTOR EXPLODED... HIS IRE WAS UNLEASHED ON EVERYTHING HE FOUND WITHIN HIS REACH... TREMBLING WITH PASSION, WITHIN MINUTES HE TORE TO PIECES THE THING ON WHICH HE WAS ENGAGED.
KRACH!!
NEVER. DO YOU HEAR, DEMON? NEVER WILL I COMMIT SUCH HERESY AGAIN!
YAAAAAAAARRHHH!!
HAVING WATCHED, IN HORROR THE WRETCH LET OUT A HOWL OF DEVILISH DESPAIR AND REVENGE AND WITHDREW.
169


THE GAZETTE OF KIRKWALL
A FOREIGNER ARRESTED FOR MURDER
The lifeless body of a gentleman was found at dawn on a beach on our island...
First assumed to have drowned, he was, though, strangled, given the marks on his neck.
The alleged killer was apprehended as soon as he had docked at the port of Kirkwall. It was most likely the violence of the North Wind that prevented him from fleeing after having committed his crime, which allowed the authorities to arrest him.
The defendant, a Swiss national by the name of Victor Frankenstein, vigorously denies the crime with which he is charged. He was brought to see the remains of the victim, at which point he fainted.
When he came to, the individual said he recognized the victim as his friend and compatriot Henry Clerval. Frankenstein has been imprisoned in the fortress of Kirkwall, where he will await his trial.
We remind our readers that the foreigner risks the death penalty. The honourable Mr. Kirwin, Magistrate, is responsible for the investigation into this distressing affair.

KIRKWALL FORTRESS,
MAINLAND, ORKNEYS...
HE FOUND HIMSELF, AS AWAKING FROM A DREAM, IN A PRISON, STRETCHED ON A WRETCHED BED, SURROUNDED BY GAOLERS, TURNKEYS, BOLTS, AND ALL THE MISERABLE APPARATUS OF A DUNGEON.
?
HOW DID HE END UP IN PRISON?
WHAT HAPPENED?
171

HEN... HENRY !
SHAKEN BY RECENT EVENTS, OVERWHELMED BY A HIGH FEVER, VICTOR STRUGGLED TO REMEMBER BEING TAKEN TO SEE THE CORPSE OF HIS DEAR FRIEND HENRY, HIS PRECIOUS COMPANION, ALWAYS IN A GOOD CHEERY MOOD, ALWAYS THERE FOR HIM...
IT TOOK A GREAT EFFORT FOR HIM TO RECONSTRUCT THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT HAD LED HIM TO THIS SINISTER PRISON...
HE HAD BEEN HANDCUFFED, LIKE A CRIMINAL!
THE NIGHT HE HAD DECIDED TO GET RID OF THE FEMALE BODIES WHO WOULD NEVER BE HIS CREATURE'S COMPANION... SVEN HELPED HIM CARRY THEIR BAGGED REMAINS TO A LITTLE SKIFF...
HE REMEMBERED LEAVING IN THE NIGHT, HEADING FOR THE HIGH SEAS!
172

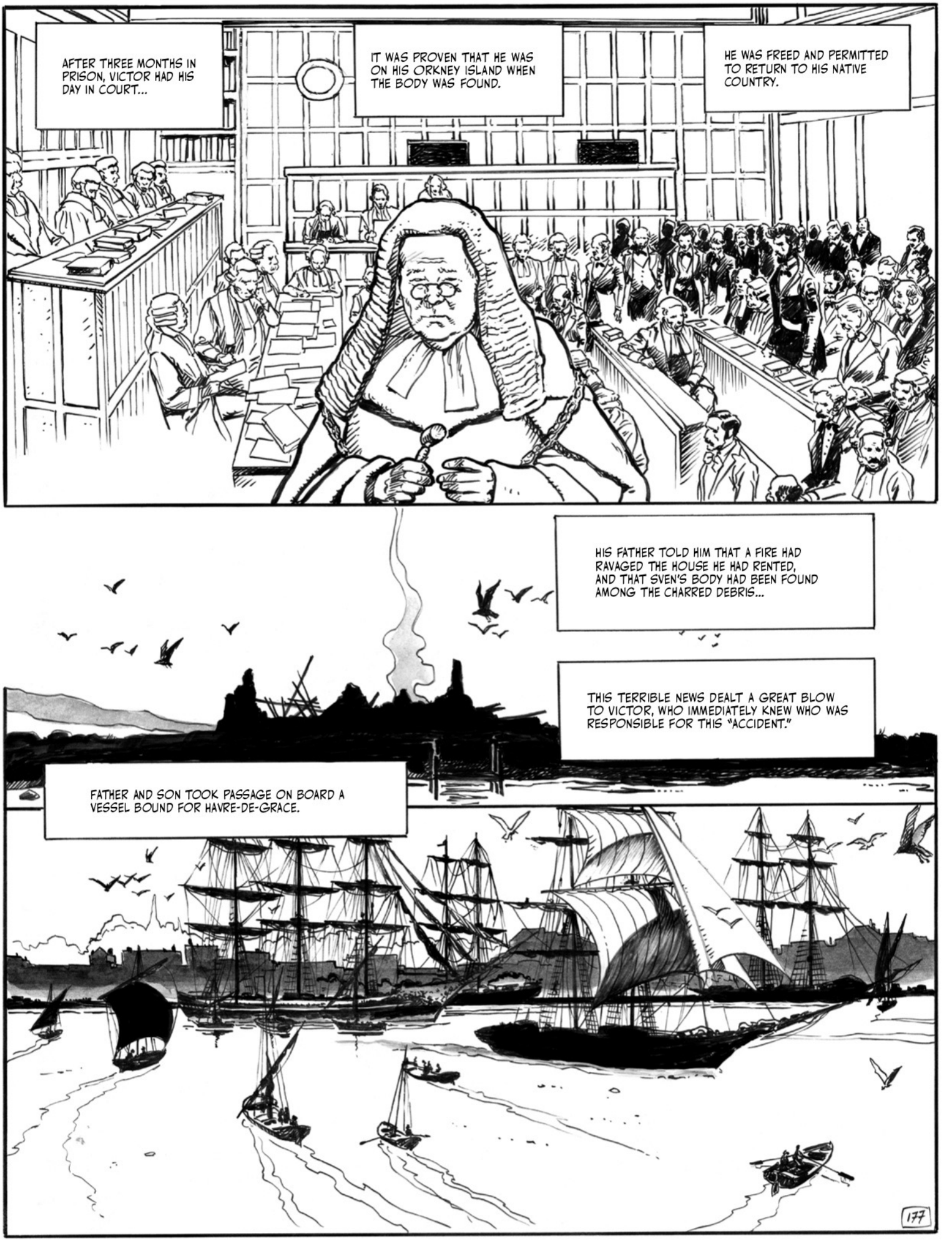

SUDDENLY THE WIND PICKED UP...
THE WAVES THREATENED HIS FRAIL SKIFF, AND HE WAS SOON UNABLE TO MANOEUVRE.
WHEN HE SAILED OUT ABOUT FOUR MILES, HE CAST HIS BASKET, WITH A GREAT QUANTITY OF STONES, INTO THE SEA, AND LISTENED TO THE GURGLING SOUND AS IT SANK...
HELPLESS, HE WAS CARRIED OUT FAR FROM THE COAST... THE LAST THING HE SAW THROUGH THE SPRAY WAS LIKE A RAGING FIRE ON HIS ISLAND, WHICH QUICKLY FELL OUT OF SIGHT...
173

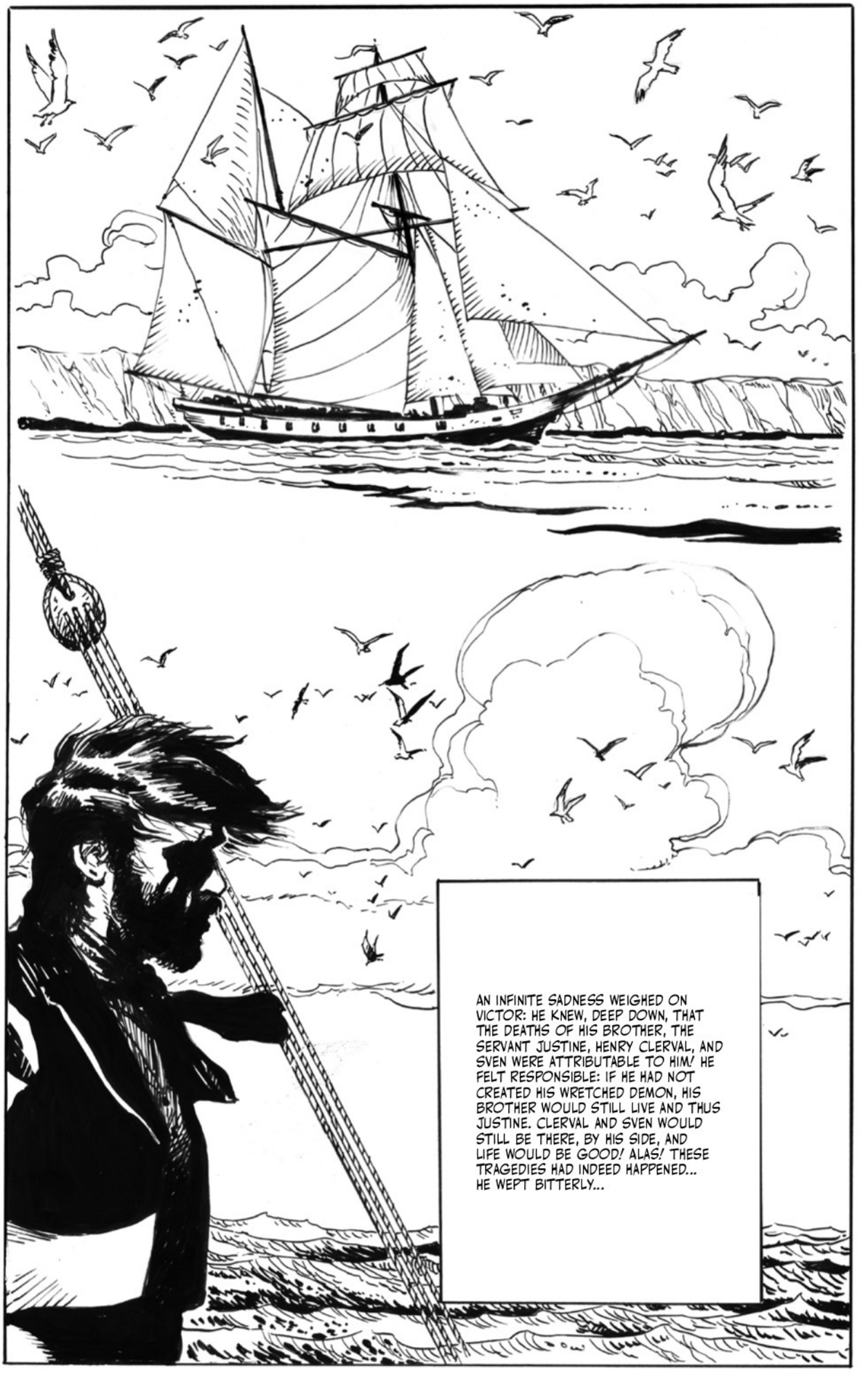

THEN HE REMEMBERED THAT, BEFORE HEADING OUT TO SEA, THE WRETCH WHOM HE HAD DREADED, HAD REAPPEARED.
YOU BELIEVE YOURSELF MISERABLE, BUT YOU HAVE NOT SUFFERED ANYTHING YET! YOU CANNOT EVEN IMAGINE WHAT I HAVE IN STORE FOR YOU!
YOU HAVE DESTROYED THE WORK WHICH YOU BEGAN! I SAW YOU...! I HAVE ENDURED TOIL AND MISERY. I LEFT SWITZERLAND WITH YOU. I CREPT ALONG THE SHORES OF THE RHINE, AMONG ITS WILLOW ISLANDS AND OVER THE SUMMITS OF ITS HILLS. I HAVE DWELT MANY MONTHS IN THE HEATHS OF ENGLAND AND AMONG THE DESERTS OF SCOTLAND. I HAVE ENDURED INCALCULABLE FATIGUE, AND COLD, AND HUNGER... DO YOU DARE DESTROY MY HOPES?
YOUR THREATS CANNOT MOVE ME, WRETCH! I WILL NEVER CREATE FOR YOU A COMPANION IN VICE!
YOU SHALL SOON EXPERIENCE TERROR AND SUFFERING! ONE BY ONE, I SHALL TAKE THE LIVES OF EVERYONE YOU LOVE...! FRANKENSTEIN, YOU WILL REGRET THE EVIL WITH WHICH YOU BURDEN ME!
IT IS WELL. I GO, BUT REMEMBER:
I SHALL BE WITH YOU ON YOUR WEDDING NIGHT!
WITH THAT, THE DEMON DISAPPEARED.
174

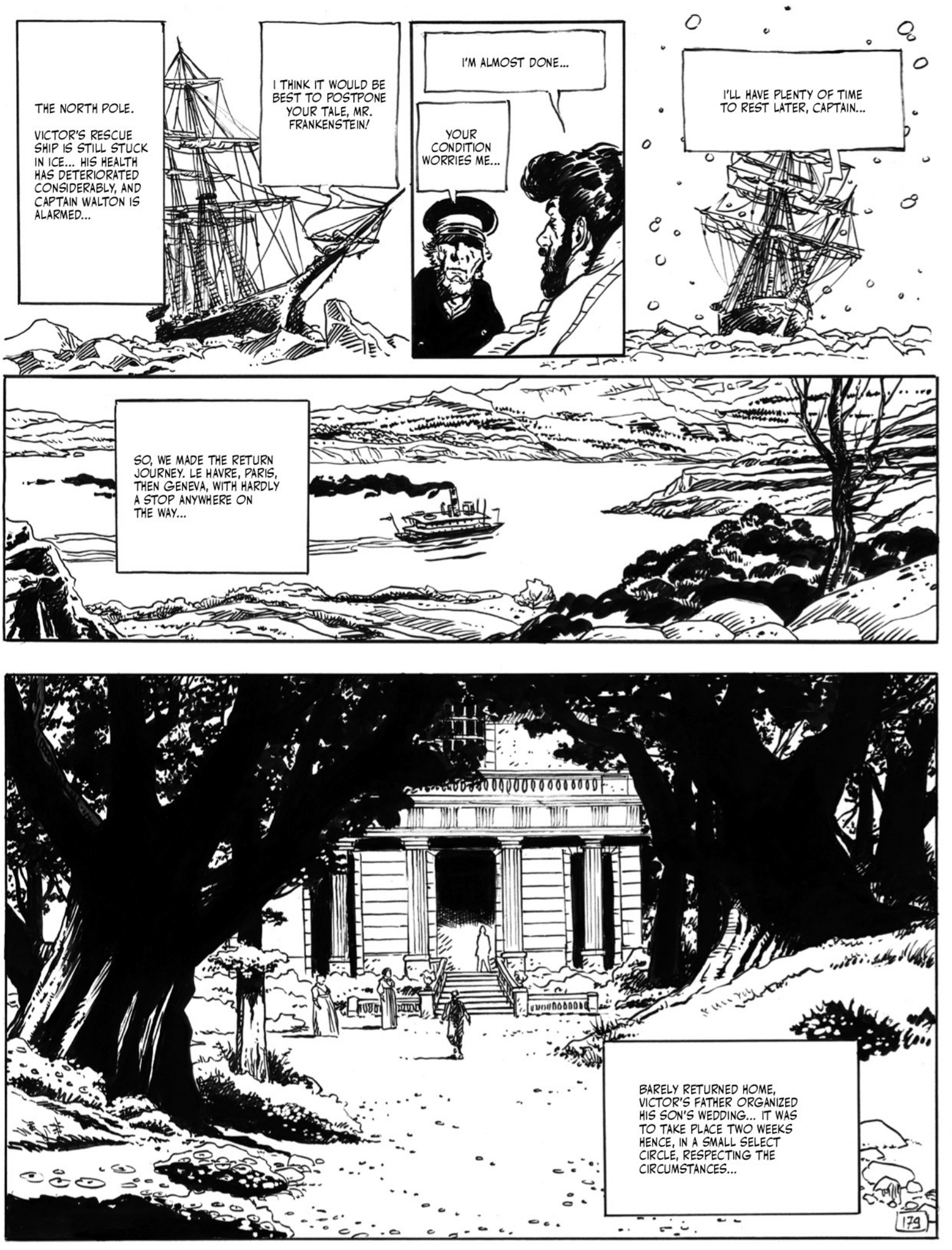
A FEW WEEKS LATER, WHILE VICTOR WAS LAMENTING IN JAIL, MR. KIRWIN, THE MAGISTRATE, CAME TO VISIT HIM, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS FATHER.
?
WAS IT A DREAM? HAD HIS CREATURE SPOKEN TO HIM? THREATENED HIM? HE FELT SO CONFUSED...
FATHER! MY DEAR FATHER! YOU ARE HERE...! SO, YOU ARE SAFE AND SOUND...! HOW IS ELIZABETH...?
DON'T WORRY, VICTOR, WE'RE ALL FINE! MR. KIRWIN CONTACTED ME BY LETTER AND EXPLAINED EVERYTHING TO ME. I RUSHED AS SOON AS I KNEW... COURAGE, MY SON, WE WILL GET YOU OUT OF HERE...
I ALSO LEARNED ABOUT POOR CLERVAL...
175

16

Fatal Wedding


AFTER THREE MONTHS IN PRISON, VICTOR HAD HIS DAY IN COURT...
IT WAS PROVEN THAT HE WAS ON HIS ORKNEY ISLAND WHEN THE BODY WAS FOUND.
HE WAS FREED AND PERMITTED TO RETURN TO HIS NATIVE COUNTRY.
HIS FATHER TOLD HIM THAT A FIRE HAD RAVAGED THE HOUSE HE HAD RENTED, AND THAT SVEN'S BODY HAD BEEN FOUND AMONG THE CHARRED DEBRIS...
THIS TERRIBLE NEWS DEALT A GREAT BLOW TO VICTOR, WHO IMMEDIATELY KNEW WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS "ACCIDENT."
FATHER AND SON TOOK PASSAGE ON BOARD A VESSEL BOUND FOR HAVRE-DE-GRACE.
177


AN INFINITE SADNESS WEIGHED ON VICTOR: HE KNEW, DEEP DOWN, THAT THE DEATHS OF HIS BROTHER, THE SERVANT JUSTINE, HENRY CLERVAL, AND SVEN WERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIM! HE FELT RESPONSIBLE: IF HE HAD NOT CREATED HIS WRETCHED DEMON, HIS BROTHER WOULD STILL LIVE AND THUS JUSTINE. CLERVAL AND SVEN WOULD STILL BE THERE, BY HIS SIDE, AND LIFE WOULD BE GOOD! ALAS! THESE TRAGEDIES HAD INDEED HAPPENED... HE WEPT BITTERLY...
178


THE NORTH POLE.
VICTOR'S RESCUE SHIP IS STILL STUCK IN ICE... HIS HEALTH HAS DETERIORATED CONSIDERABLY, AND CAPTAIN WALTON IS ALARMED...
I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST TO POSTPONE YOUR TALE, MR. FRANKENSTEIN!
I'M ALMOST DONE...
YOUR CONDITION WORRIES ME...
I'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO REST LATER, CAPTAIN...
SO, WE MADE THE RETURN JOURNEY. LE HAVRE, PARIS, THEN GENEVA, WITH HARDLY A STOP ANYWHERE ON THE WAY...
BARELY RETURNED HOME, VICTOR'S FATHER ORGANIZED HIS SON'S WEDDING... IT WAS TO TAKE PLACE TWO WEEKS HENCE, IN A SMALL SELECT CIRCLE, RESPECTING THE CIRCUMSTANCES...
179

PANG
IN THE MEANTIME, VICTOR PROCURED HIMSELF A PAIR OF PISTOLS AND A DAGGER. HE PRACTICED SHOOTING FOR HOURS ON END...
HE NEVER LEFT HIS WEAPONS AND WAS CEASELESSLY ON HIS GUARD. HE NEEDED TO BE PREPARED TO DEFEND HIS LIFE AND HIS FAMILY...
ELIZABETH SEEMED HAPPY, AND HIS FATHER OVERJOYED IN THE BUSTLE OF PREPARATION.
180

FINALLY, THE WEDDING DAY ARRIVED... THE WEATHER WAS MAGNIFICENT... EVERYTHING WENT WONDERFULLY...
AS SOON AS THE CEREMONY WAS OVER, VICTOR AND HIS NEW BRIDE BOARDED A STEAMER BOUND FOR EVIAN, WHERE THEY WERE TO SPEND THEIR WEDDING NIGHT...
THEY SAILED ON LAKE GENEVA FOR SEVERAL HOURS, ENJOYING THE BEAUTY OF THE LANDSCAPE AND THE SERENITY OF THE PERFECT DAY... THE SUN SANK BENEATH THE HORIZON AS THEY LANDED.
181

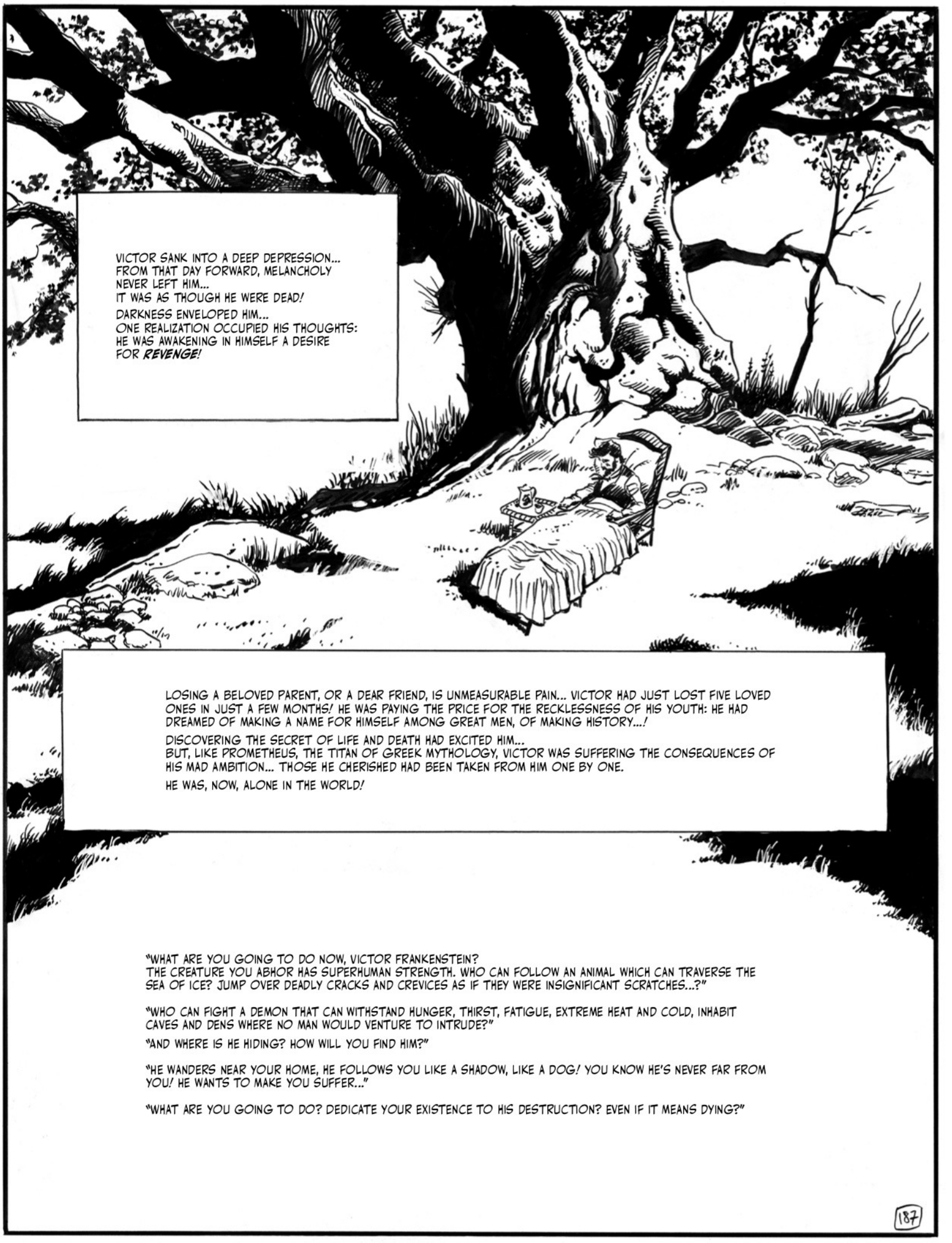
THEY WALKED FOR A SHORT TIME ON THE SHORE, ENJOYING THE TRANSITORY LIGHT, AND THEN RETIRED TO THE INN.
HE HAD BEEN CALM DURING THE DAY, BUT AS SOON, AS NIGHT OBSCURED THE SHAPES OF OBJECTS, A THOUSAND FEARS AROSE IN HIS MIND... HIS RIGHT HAND GRASPED A PISTOL WHICH WAS HIDDEN IN HIS BOSOM.
SUDDENLY, A HEAVY RAINSTORM DESCENDED.
WHAT IS IT, VICTOR? WHAT IS IT YOU FEAR?
IT'S... THIS STORM THAT MAKES ME UNEASY, MY DEAR... RETIRE TO OUR ROOM, I WILL JOIN YOU THERE SOON.
SHE LEFT HIM AND HE CONTINUED FOR SOME TIME WALKING UP AND DOWN THE PASSAGES OF THE HOUSE INSPECTING EVERY CORNER THAT MIGHT AFFORD A RETREAT TO HIS ADVERSARY.
HE DISCOVERED NO TRACE OF HIM AND, REASSURED, HE SET OFF TO JOIN ELIZABETH WHEN, SUDDENLY, HE HEARD A SHRILL AND DREADFUL SCREAM.
!?
182

VICTOR IMMEDIATELY REALIZED HIS TRAGIC MISTAKE! WHILE HE WAS EXAMINING THE CORRIDORS OF THE HOTEL, THE DEMON HAD ATTACKED ELIZABETH!
NO! NO!
ELIZABETH!
SHE WAS THERE, LIFELESS, HER PALE AND DISTORTED FEATURES HALF COVERED BY HER HAIR.
VICTOR COLLAPSED TO THE GROUND...
183

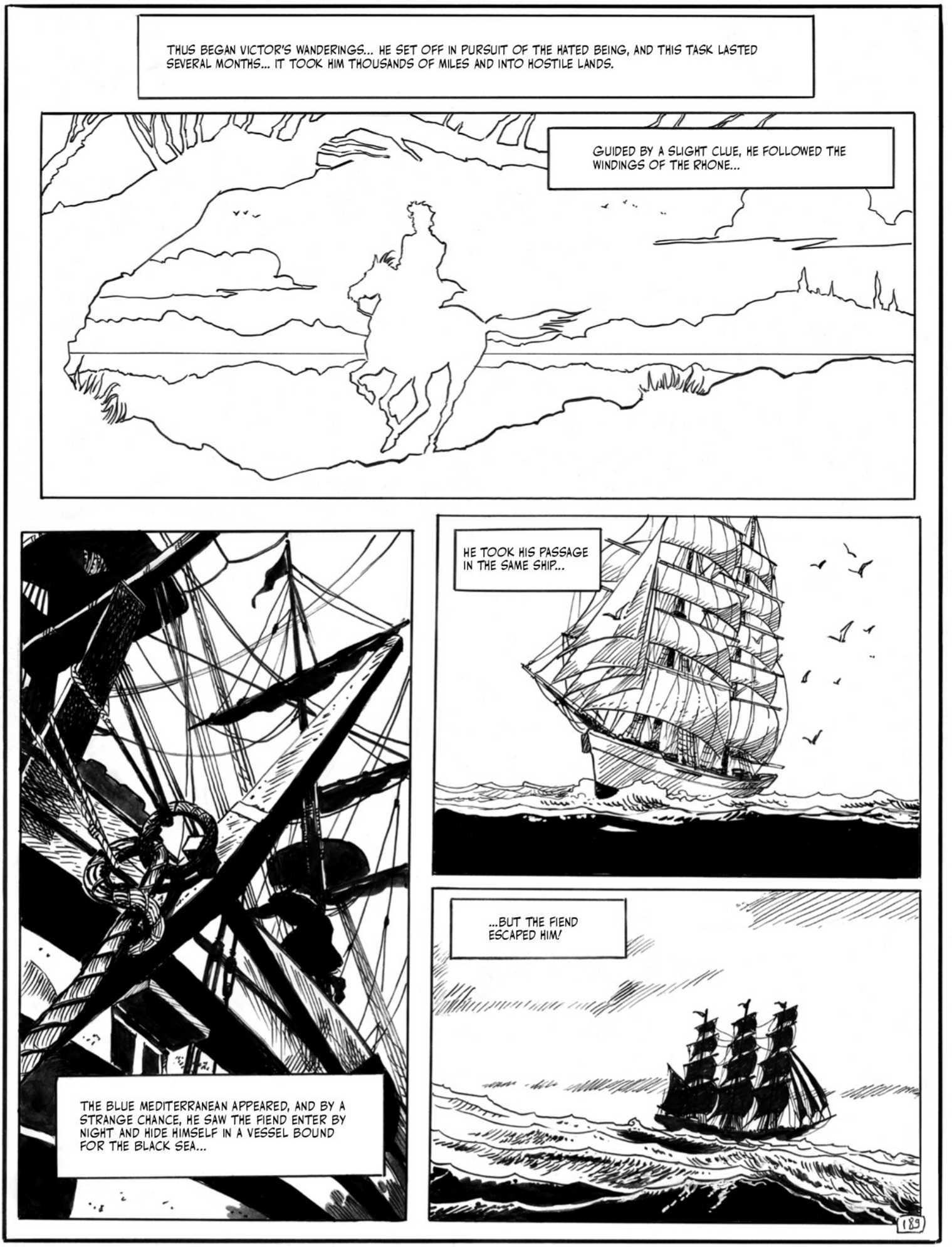
WHEN HE RECOVERED, HE FOUND HIMSELF SURROUNDED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE INN.
THROUGH THE WINDOW, VICTOR SAW A GRIN ON THE FACE OF THE DEMON. HE DREW THE PISTOL FROM HIS BOSOM, AND FIRED...
THE CREATURE ESCAPED, RUNNING WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF LIGHTNING, AND PLUNGED INTO THE LAKE...
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
PANG!
PANG!
OUTSIDE, THE MONSTER, HIDEOUS, SEEMED TO JEER AT HIS ENEMY...
...DISAPPEARING IN THE DARKNESS.
AN IMMENSE SORROW OVERTOOK POOR VICTOR...
ELIZABETH, MY LOVE, MY WIFE!
184

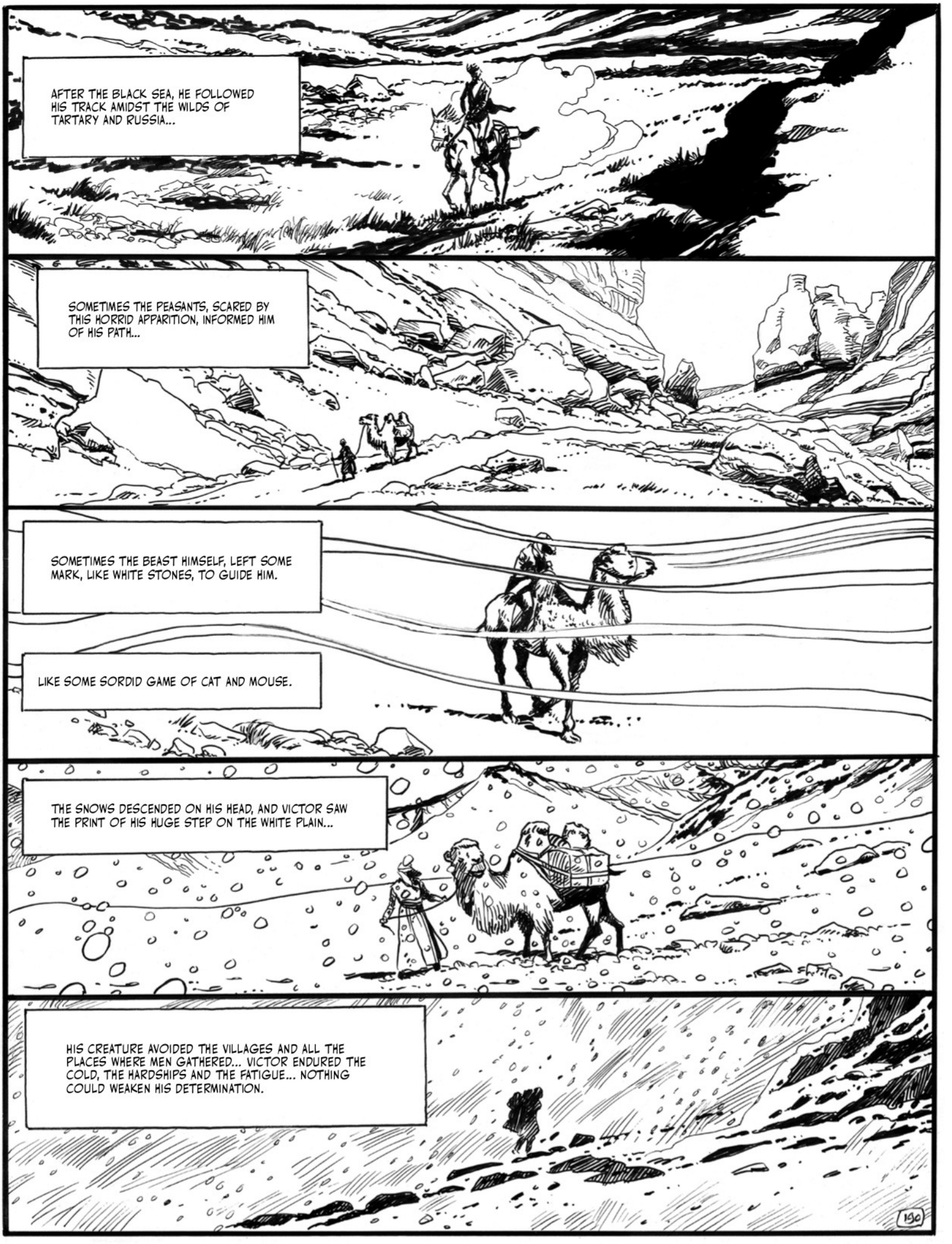
"FATHER!"
"V...VICTOR!"
"A MONSTER HAS ROBBED ME OF MY LAST HOPE OF HAPPINESS. FATHER, I AM CURSED!"
I BRING BACK TO YOU YOUR BELOVED DAUGHTER-IN-LAW! A MADMAN TOOK HER LIFE... AND I WAS NOT ABLE TO PROTECT HER!
I AM DAMNED!
AT THE SIGHT OF HIS MORE THAN DAUGHTER DEAD IN THE ARMS OF HIS SON, THE OLD MAN COLLAPSED. HE HAD CHERISHED THE YOUNG WOMAN WHO HAD GIVEN HIM SO MUCH AFFECTION... DISCOVERING HER LIFELESS WAS AN INCREDIBLE SHOCK! HE COULD NOT LIVE WITH THE HORRORS THAT WERE ACCUMULATED AROUND HIM, HE COLLAPSED AT VICTOR'S FEET.
HIS HEART HAD STOPPED. AND THUS, HE INDIRECTLY, BECAME THE DEMON'S NEWEST VICTIM.
HE PASSED ON JULY 21ST.
...SAINT VICTOR'S DAY.
185

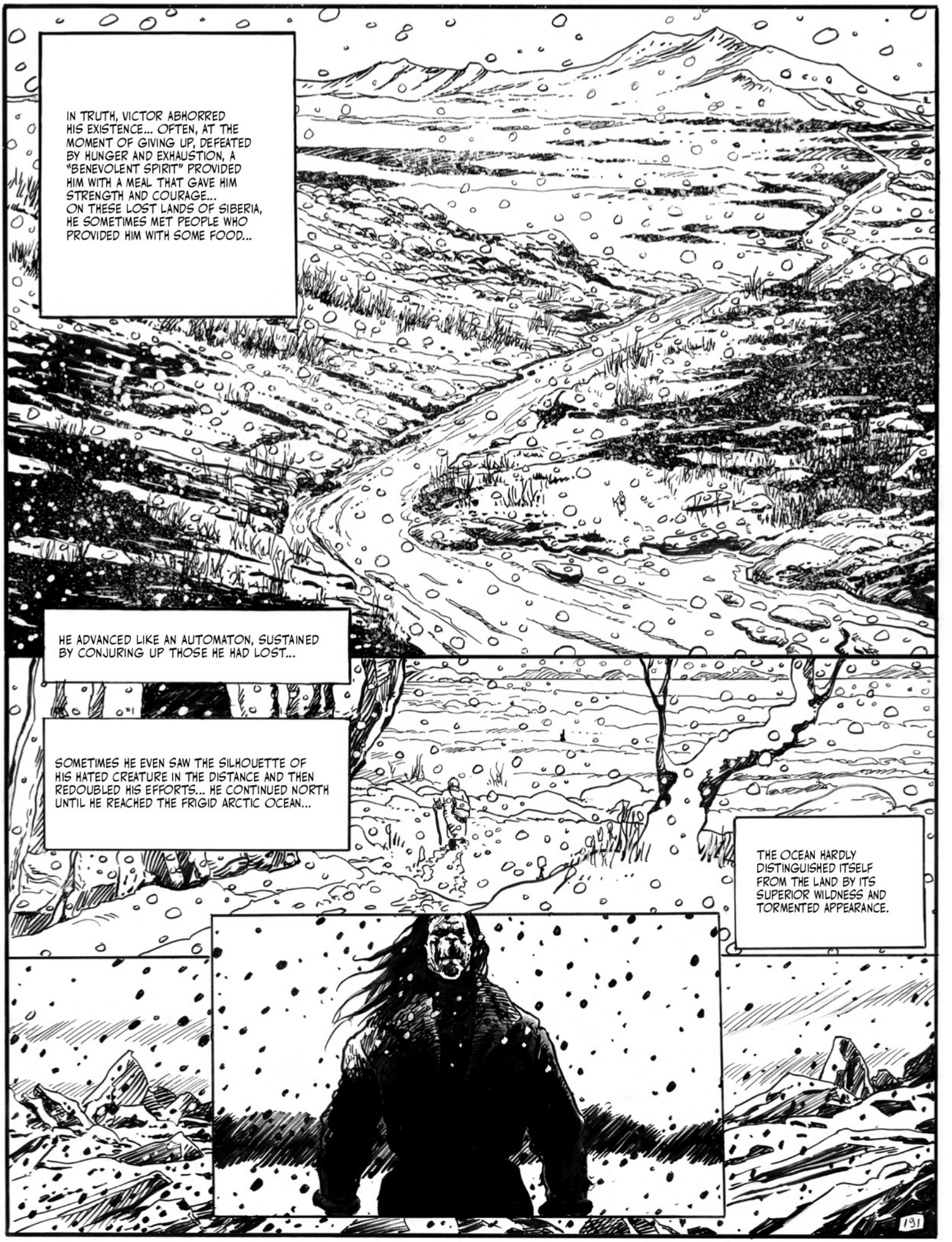
17
Wanderings


VICTOR SANK INTO A DEEP DEPRESSION... FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, MELANCHOLY NEVER LEFT HIM... IT WAS AS THOUGH HE WERE DEAD!
DARKNESS ENVELOPED HIM... ONE REALIZATION OCCUPIED HIS THOUGHTS: HE WAS AWAKENING IN HIMSELF A DESIRE FOR REVENGE!
LOSING A BELOVED PARENT, OR A DEAR FRIEND, IS UNMEASURABLE PAIN... VICTOR HAD JUST LOST FIVE LOVED ONES IN JUST A FEW MONTHS! HE WAS PAYING THE PRICE FOR THE RECKLESSNESS OF HIS YOUTH: HE HAD DREAMED OF MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF AMONG GREAT MEN, OF MAKING HISTORY...!
DISCOVERING THE SECRET OF LIFE AND DEATH HAD EXCITED HIM... BUT, LIKE PROMETHEUS, THE TITAN OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY, VICTOR WAS SUFFERING THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS MAD AMBITION... THOSE HE CHERISHED HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM HIM ONE BY ONE.
HE WAS, NOW, ALONE IN THE WORLD!
"WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW, VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN? THE CREATURE YOU ABHOR HAS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. WHO CAN FOLLOW AN ANIMAL WHICH CAN TRAVERSE THE SEA OF ICE? JUMP OVER DEADLY CRACKS AND CREVICES AS IF THEY WERE INSIGNIFICANT SCRATCHES...?"
"WHO CAN FIGHT A DEMON THAT CAN WITHSTAND HUNGER, THIRST, FATIGUE, EXTREME HEAT AND COLD, INHABIT CAVES AND DENS WHERE NO MAN WOULD VENTURE TO INTRUDE?"
"AND WHERE IS HE HIDING? HOW WILL YOU FIND HIM?"
"HE WANDERS NEAR YOUR HOME, HE FOLLOWS YOU LIKE A SHADOW, LIKE A DOG! YOU KNOW HE'S NEVER FAR FROM YOU! HE WANTS TO MAKE YOU SUFFER..."
"WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? DEDICATE YOUR EXISTENCE TO HIS DESTRUCTION? EVEN IF IT MEANS DYING?"
187

HIS FIRST RESOLUTION WAS TO QUIT GENEVA FOREVER... HE PROVIDED HIMSELF WITH A SUM OF MONEY, TOGETHER WITH A FEW JEWELS WHICH HAD BELONGED TO HIS MOTHER AND DEPARTED.
IN HIS FINAL WANDERINGS IN TOWN, HE FOUND HIMSELF AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE CEMETERY WHERE WILLIAM, ELIZABETH, AND HIS FATHER REPOSED.
EVERYTHING WAS SILENT EXCEPT THE LEAVES OF THE TREES. THE NIGHT WAS NEARLY DARK. THE SPIRITS OF THE DEPARTED SEEMED TO FLIT AROUND.
I SWEAR, TO PURSUE THE DEMON WHO CAUSED THIS MISERY. THEY ARE DEAD, AND I LIVE FOR THIS PURPOSE. I WILL PRESERVE MY LIFE TO EXECUTE THIS DEAR REVENGE. SPIRITS OF THE DEAD, AID AND CONDUCT ME IN MY WORK! THAT THE CURSED AND HELLISH MONSTER FEEL THE DESPAIR THAT NOW TORMENTS ME!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
PANG!
VICTOR SHOT AT HIM, BUT THE DEVIL ELUDED HIM.
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
AT THAT MOMENT A LOUD AND FIENDISH LAUGH RANG INTO THE SILENCE! THE MOUNTAINS RE-ECHOED IT, AS IF ALL HELL SURROUNDED HIM WITH MOCKERY AND LAUGHTER.
188


THUS BEGAN VICTOR'S WANDERINGS... HE SET OFF IN PURSUIT OF THE HATED BEING, AND THIS TASK LASTED SEVERAL MONTHS... IT TOOK HIM THOUSANDS OF MILES AND INTO HOSTILE LANDS.
GUIDED BY A SLIGHT CLUE, HE FOLLOWED THE WINDINGS OF THE RHONE...
THE BLUE MEDITERRANEAN APPEARED, AND BY A STRANGE CHANCE, HE SAW THE FIEND ENTER BY NIGHT AND HIDE HIMSELF IN A VESSEL BOUND FOR THE BLACK SEA...
HE TOOK HIS PASSAGE IN THE SAME SHIP...
...BUT THE FIEND ESCAPED HIM!
189


AFTER THE BLACK SEA, HE FOLLOWED HIS TRACK AMIDST THE WILDS OF TARTARY AND RUSSIA...
SOMETIMES THE PEASANTS, SCARED BY THIS HORRID APPARITION, INFORMED HIM OF HIS PATH...
SOMETIMES THE BEAST HIMSELF, LEFT SOME MARK, LIKE WHITE STONES, TO GUIDE HIM.
LIKE SOME SORDID GAME OF CAT AND MOUSE.
THE SNOWS DESCENDED ON HIS HEAD, AND VICTOR SAW THE PRINT OF HIS HUGE STEP ON THE WHITE PLAIN...
HIS CREATURE AVOIDED THE VILLAGES AND ALL THE PLACES WHERE MEN GATHERED... VICTOR ENDURED THE COLD, THE HARDSHIPS AND THE FATIGUE... NOTHING COULD WEAKEN HIS DETERMINATION.
190


IN TRUTH, VICTOR ABHORRED HIS EXISTENCE... OFTEN, AT THE MOMENT OF GIVING UP, DEFEATED BY HUNGER AND EXHAUSTION, A "BENEVOLENT SPIRIT" PROVIDED HIM WITH A MEAL THAT GAVE HIM STRENGTH AND COURAGE... ON THESE LOST LANDS OF SIBERIA, HE SOMETIMES MET PEOPLE WHO PROVIDED HIM WITH SOME FOOD...
HE ADVANCED LIKE AN AUTOMATON, SUSTAINED BY CONJURING UP THOSE HE HAD LOST...
SOMETIMES HE EVEN SAW THE SILHOUETTE OF HIS HATED CREATURE IN THE DISTANCE AND THEN REDOUBLED HIS EFFORTS... HE CONTINUED NORTH UNTIL HE REACHED THE FRIGID ARCTIC OCEAN...
THE OCEAN HARDLY DISTINGUISHED ITSELF FROM THE LAND BY ITS SUPERIOR WILDNESS AND TORMENTED APPEARANCE.
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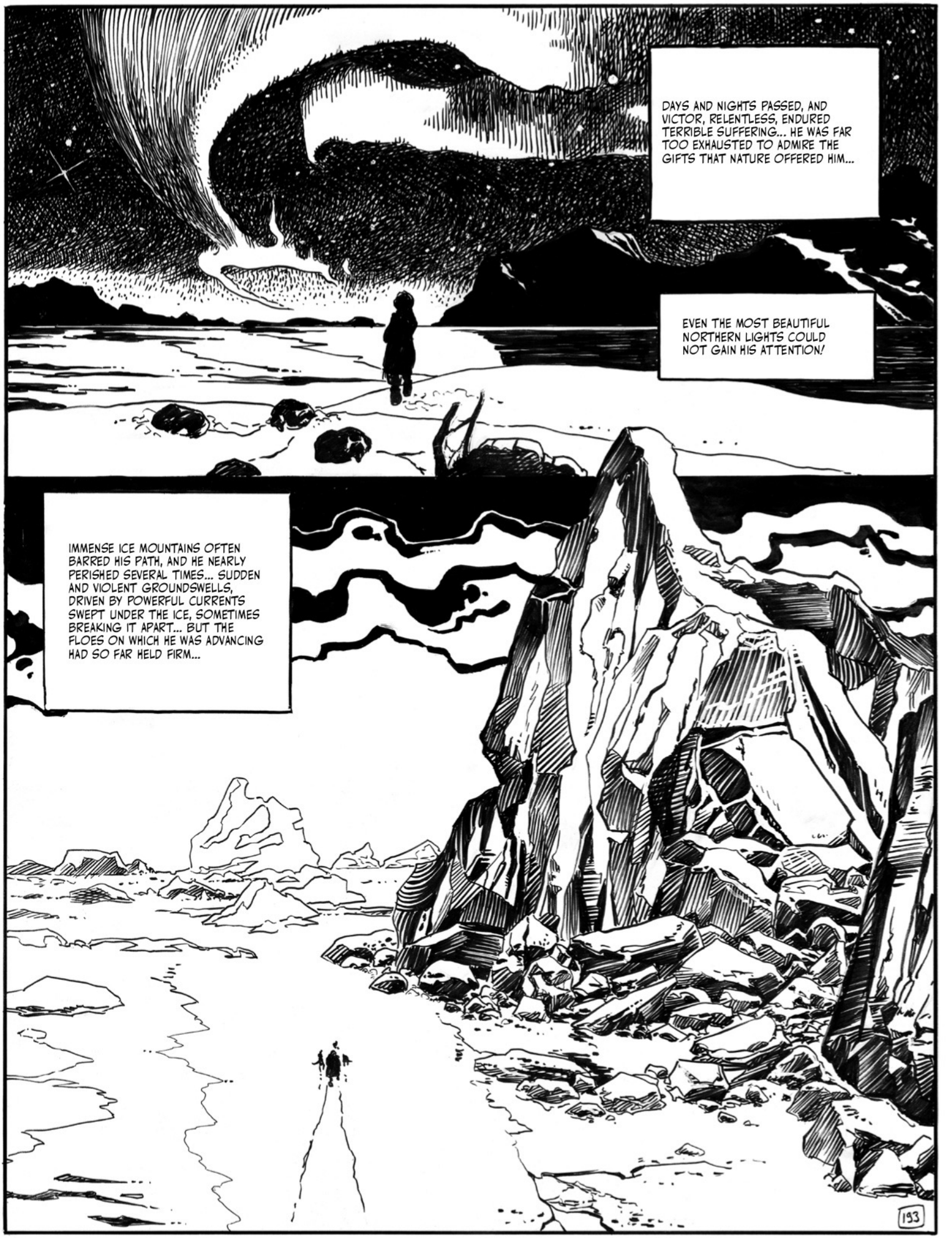
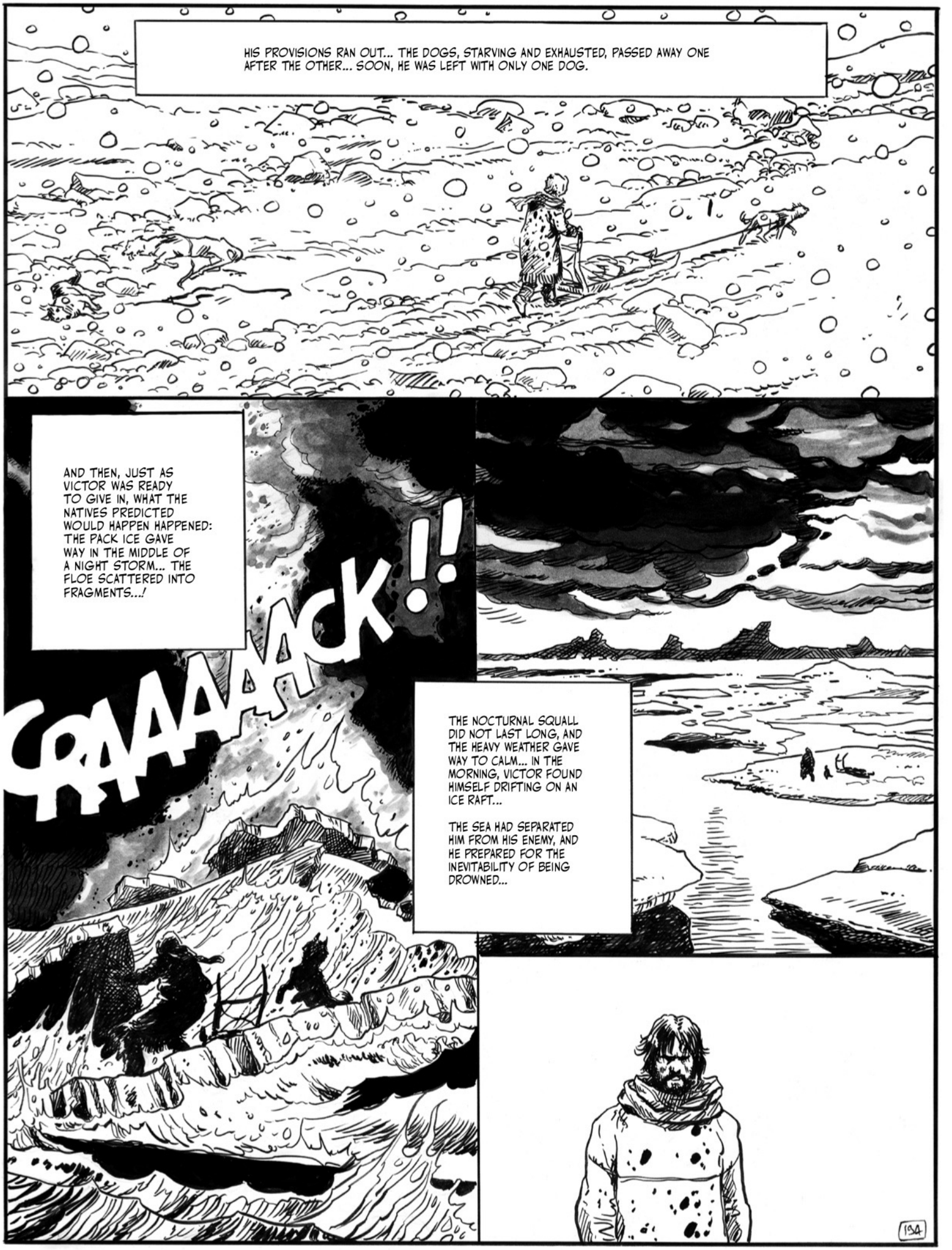
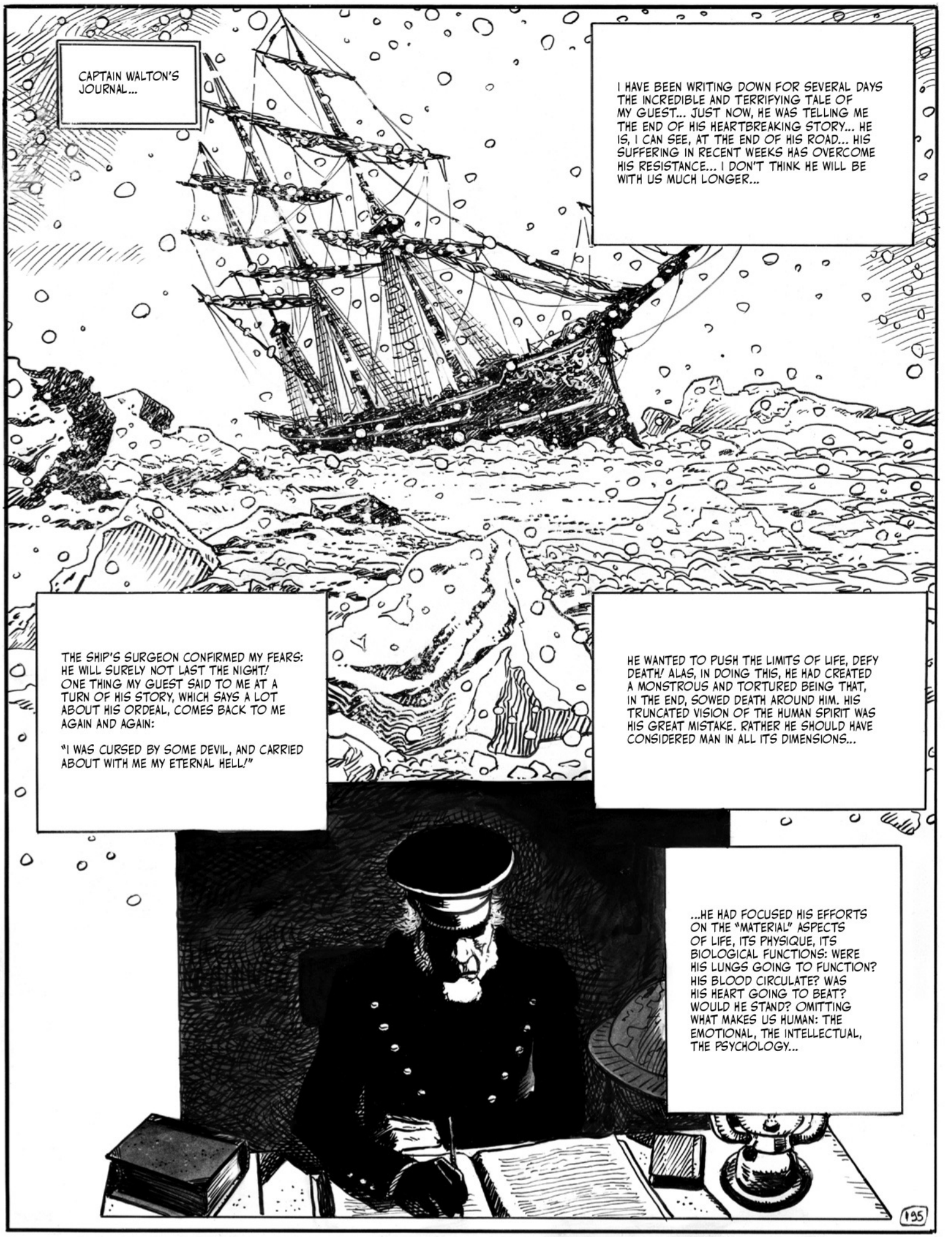
IN TWO DAYS, HE ARRIVED AT A WRETCHED HAMLET ON THE SEASHORE. THERE, VICTOR BOUGHT A SLEDGE AND A TEAM FROM THE NATIVES... THEY ALSO GAVE HIM SOME INFORMATION: A GIGANTIC BEING HAD PASSED THROUGH THEIR HAMLET... HIS TERRIFYING APPEARANCE HAD MADE THEM FLEE! HE HAD ROBBED THEM OF A GOOD PART OF THEIR FOOD PROVISIONS AS WELL AS A SLEDGE AND SOME DOGS. THEY POINTED OUT TO HIM THE DIRECTION THE COLOSSUS HAD TAKEN, SPECIFYING THAT IT DID NOT LEAD TO ANY LAND... IT WOULD NOT BE LONG BEFORE HE DIED EITHER FROM THE INTENSE COLD OR FROM THE BREAKING OF THE ICE, A COMMON PHENOMENON AT THIS TIME OF YEAR...
THE NATIVES SPECIFIED THAT THIS BEING HAD LEFT THE SAME NIGHT...
VICTOR, WHO FEARED HE HAD LOST THE TRAIL OF HIS CREATURE, WAS REASSURED... HAVING PROCURED PROVISIONS HIMSELF, HE CONTINUED HIS CHASE...
192


DAYS AND NIGHTS PASSED, AND VICTOR, RELENTLESS, ENDURED TERRIBLE SUFFERING... HE WAS FAR TOO EXHAUSTED TO ADMIRE THE GIFTS THAT NATURE OFFERED HIM...
EVEN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL NORTHERN LIGHTS COULD NOT GAIN HIS ATTENTION!
IMMENSE ICE MOUNTAINS OFTEN BARRED HIS PATH, AND HE NEARLY PERISHED SEVERAL TIMES... SUDDEN AND VIOLENT GROUNDSWELLS, DRIVEN BY POWERFUL CURRENTS SWEPT UNDER THE ICE, SOMETIMES BREAKING IT APART... BUT THE FLOES ON WHICH HE WAS ADVANCING HAD SO FAR HELD FIRM...
193


HIS PROVISIONS RAN OUT... THE DOGS, STARVING AND EXHAUSTED, PASSED AWAY ONE AFTER THE OTHER... SOON, HE WAS LEFT WITH ONLY ONE DOG.
AND THEN, JUST AS VICTOR WAS READY TO GIVE IN, WHAT THE NATIVES PREDICTED WOULD HAPPEN HAPPENED: THE PACK ICE GAVE WAY IN THE MIDDLE OF A NIGHT STORM... THE FLOE SCATTERED INTO FRAGMENTS...!
RAAAAACK!!
THE NOCTURNAL SQUALL DID NOT LAST LONG, AND THE HEAVY WEATHER GAVE WAY TO CALM... IN THE MORNING, VICTOR FOUND HIMSELF DRIFTING ON AN ICE RAFT...
THE SEA HAD SEPARATED HIM FROM HIS ENEMY, AND HE PREPARED FOR THE INEVITABILITY OF BEING DROWNED...
194


CAPTAIN WALTON'S JOURNAL...
I HAVE BEEN WRITING DOWN FOR SEVERAL DAYS THE INCREDIBLE AND TERRIFYING TALE OF MY GUEST... JUST NOW, HE WAS TELLING ME THE END OF HIS HEARTBREAKING STORY... HE IS, I CAN SEE, AT THE END OF HIS ROAD... HIS SUFFERING IN RECENT WEEKS HAS OVERCOME HIS RESISTANCE... I DON'T THINK HE WILL BE WITH US MUCH LONGER...
THE SHIP'S SURGEON CONFIRMED MY FEARS: HE WILL SURELY NOT LAST THE NIGHT! ONE THING MY GUEST SAID TO ME AT A TURN OF HIS STORY, WHICH SAYS A LOT ABOUT HIS ORDEAL, COMES BACK TO ME AGAIN AND AGAIN:
"I WAS CURSED BY SOME DEVIL, AND CARRIED ABOUT WITH ME MY ETERNAL HELL!"
HE WANTED TO PUSH THE LIMITS OF LIFE, DEFY DEATH! ALAS, IN DOING THIS, HE HAD CREATED A MONSTROUS AND TORTURED BEING THAT, IN THE END, SOWED DEATH AROUND HIM. HIS TRUNCATED VISION OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT WAS HIS GREAT MISTAKE. RATHER HE SHOULD HAVE CONSIDERED MAN IN ALL ITS DIMENSIONS...
...HE HAD FOCUSED HIS EFFORTS ON THE "MATERIAL" ASPECTS OF LIFE, ITS PHYSIQUE, ITS BIOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS: WERE HIS LUNGS GOING TO FUNCTION? HIS BLOOD CIRCULATE? WAS HIS HEART GOING TO BEAT? WOULD HE STAND? OMITTING WHAT MAKES US HUMAN: THE EMOTIONAL, THE INTELLECTUAL, THE PSYCHOLOGY...
195

I HAVE NOT SEEN THE MONSTER OF WHICH HE SPEAKS, EXCEPT THROUGH MY TELESCOPE, DRIVING HIS SLEDGE AND TEAM IN THE DISTANCE... BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT HE INDEED EXISTS! MY GUEST, IN NARRATING HIS TALE, SOUNDED TOTALLY SINCERE, AND I BELIEVE HIM... FRANKENSTEIN WON ALL MY SYMPATHY! ALAS, IT IS NOW A MATTER OF HOURS FOR HIM! NO SOONER HAVE I MET HIM THAN HE WILL LEAVE ME FOR GOOD...

HE HAS CREATED A MONSTER ENDOWED WITH HUMANITY, CONDEMNED TO LONELINESS, AND IT DROVE HIM MAD! HE CONDEMNED HIS CREATOR TO THIS SAME UNBEARABLE LONELINESS BY TAKING AWAY ALL THOSE WHO WERE DEAR TO HIM!

OBVIOUSLY, THE REVENGE THAT MY UNFORTUNATE GUEST WAS PURSUING WAS ONLY A GUISE... NOTHING COULD BRING THEM BACK FROM THE REALM OF THE DEAD...

CAPTAIN! MY CAPTAIN!

THERE'S A PROBLEM! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING!

...WE HEARD A SOUND IN THE CABIN WHERE THE REMAINS OF FRANKENSTEIN LIE! THE SOUND OF A VOICE, BUT NOT HIS! IT'S ROUGHER!

WHY DIDN'T YOU GO AND SEE, SAILOR?

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE, SIR. THE DOOR IS LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE, SIR...

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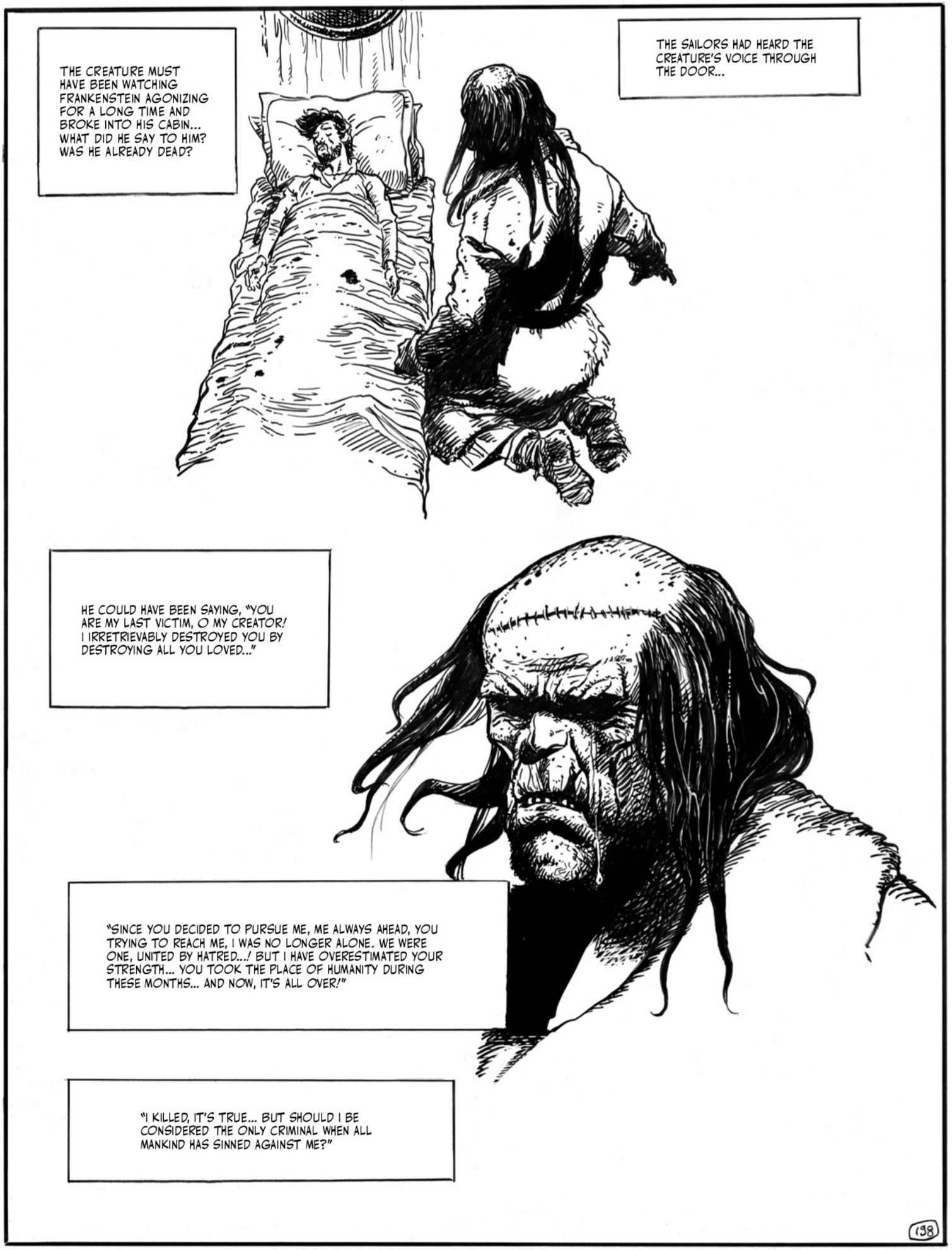
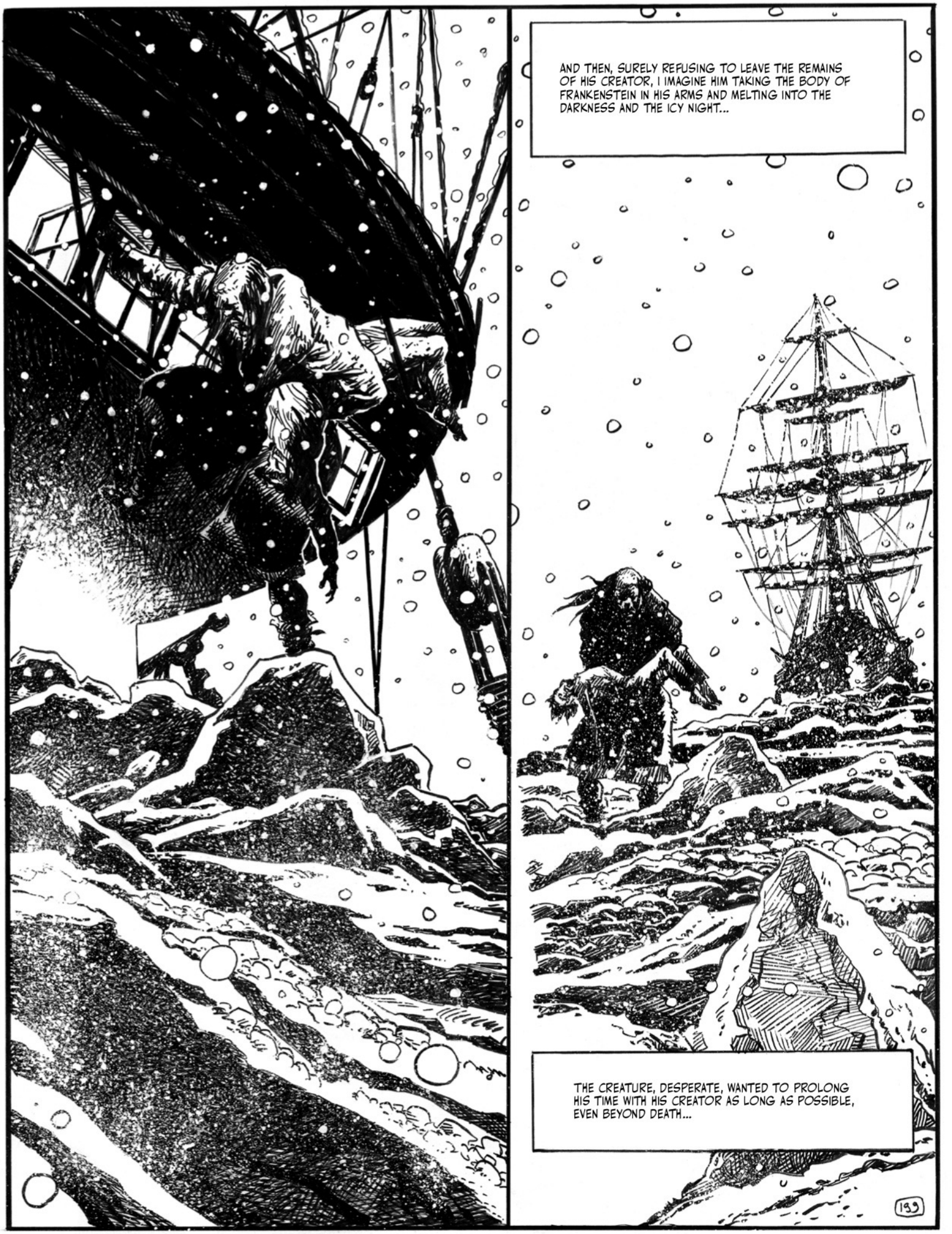
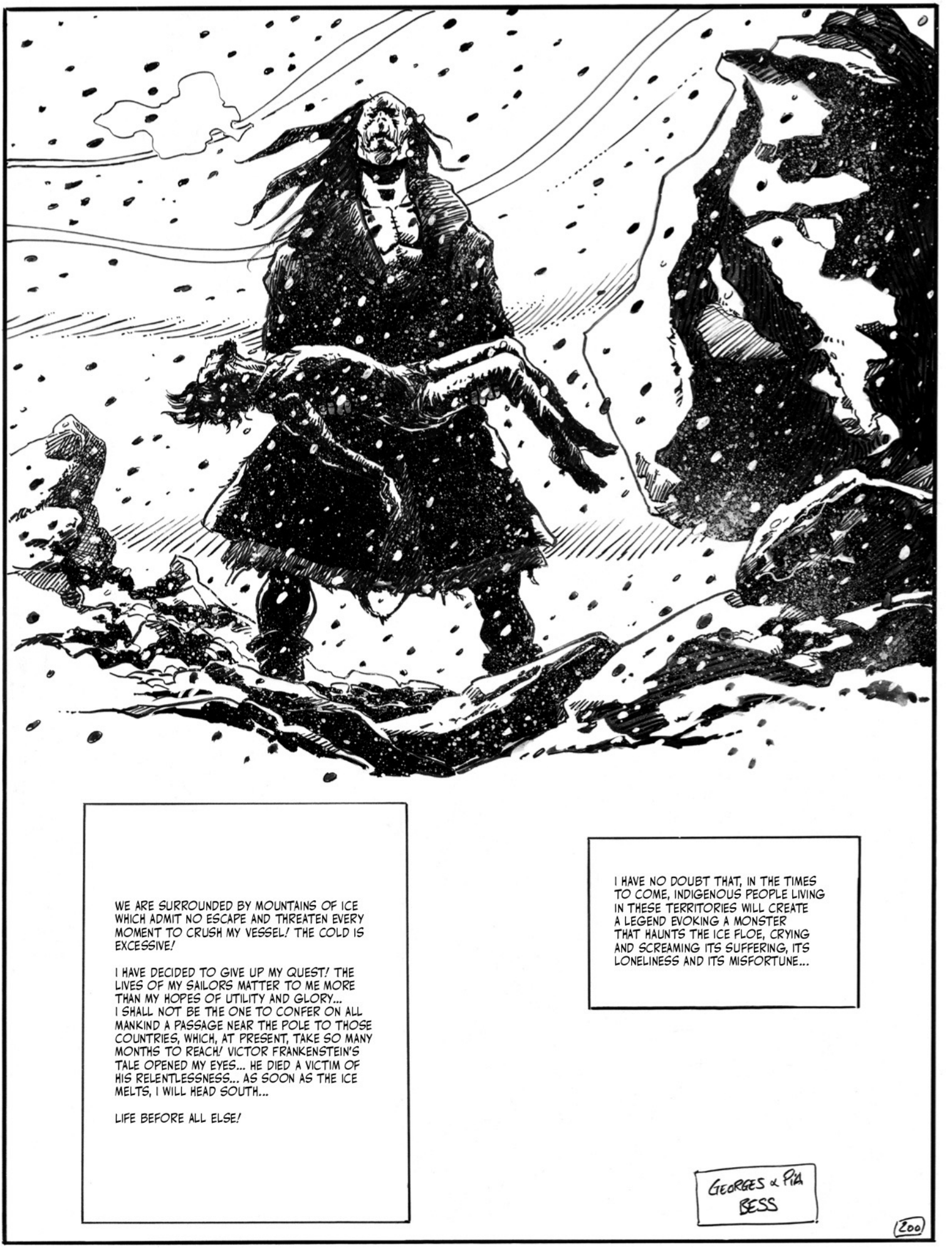
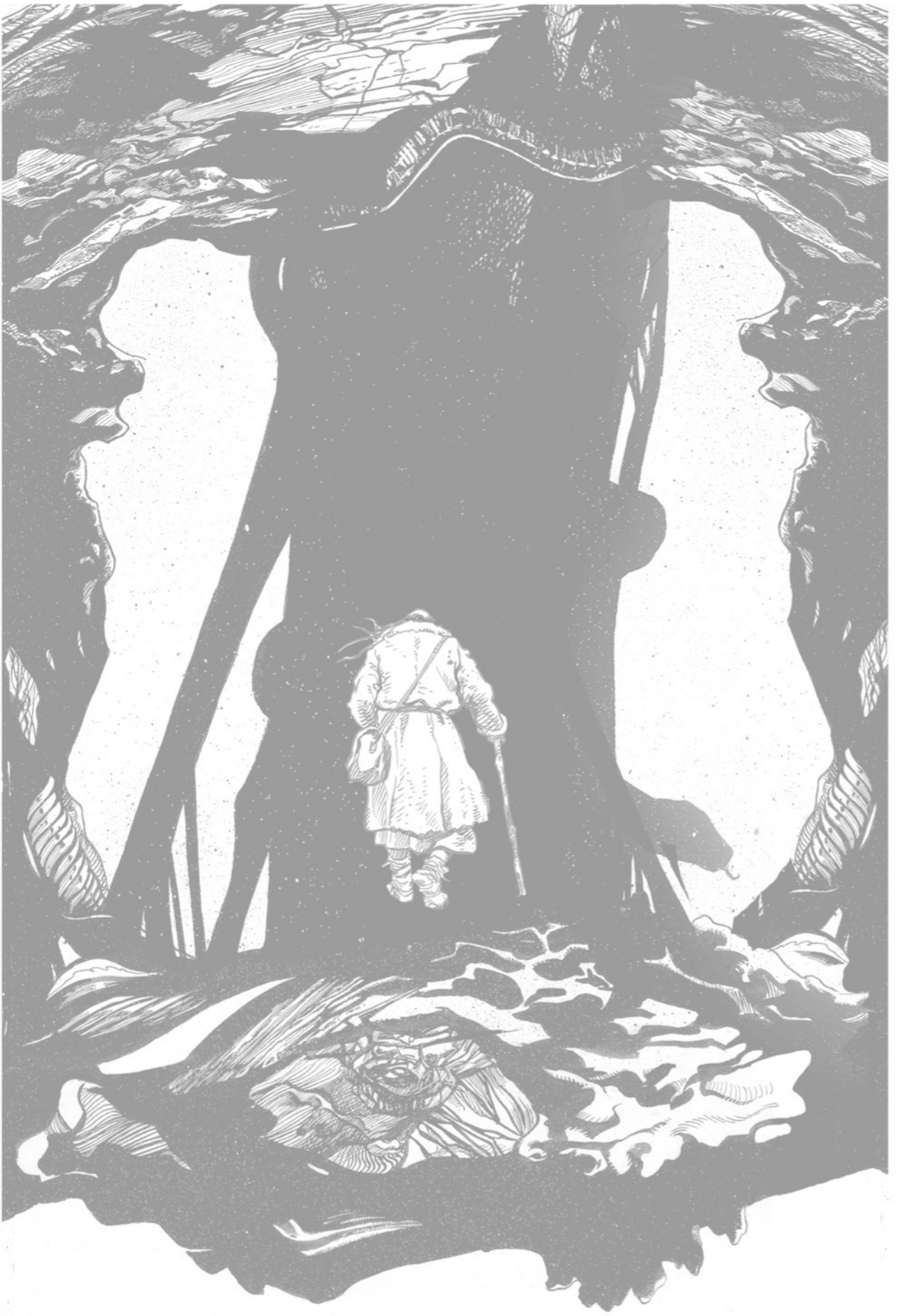
THEN KICK IT IN, SAILOR! THAT'S AN ORDER!
SIR, YES, SIR! COME ON MEN!
CRACK!
HE... HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN UP ON HIS OWN! HE WAS TOO WEAK!
WHERE IS HE?
!
I THINK I KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED...
197


THE CREATURE MUST HAVE BEEN WATCHING FRANKENSTEIN AGONIZING FOR A LONG TIME AND BROKE INTO HIS CABIN... WHAT DID HE SAY TO HIM? WAS HE ALREADY DEAD?
THE SAILORS HAD HEARD THE CREATURE'S VOICE THROUGH THE DOOR...
HE COULD HAVE BEEN SAYING, "YOU ARE MY LAST VICTIM, O MY CREATOR! I IRRETRIEVABLY DESTROYED YOU BY DESTROYING ALL YOU LOVED..."
"SINCE YOU DECIDED TO PURSUE ME, ME ALWAYS AHEAD, YOU TRYING TO REACH ME, I WAS NO LONGER ALONE. WE WERE ONE, UNITED BY HATRED...! BUT I HAVE OVERESTIMATED YOUR STRENGTH... YOU TOOK THE PLACE OF HUMANITY DURING THESE MONTHS... AND NOW, IT'S ALL OVER!"
"I KILLED, IT'S TRUE... BUT SHOULD I BE CONSIDERED THE ONLY CRIMINAL WHEN ALL MANKIND HAS SINNED AGAINST ME?"
138


AND THEN, SURELY REFUSING TO LEAVE THE REMAINS OF HIS CREATOR, I IMAGINE HIM TAKING THE BODY OF FRANKENSTEIN IN HIS ARMS AND MELTING INTO THE DARKNESS AND THE ICY NIGHT...
THE CREATURE, DESPERATE, WANTED TO PROLONG HIS TIME WITH HIS CREATOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, EVEN BEYOND DEATH...
199


WE ARE SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS OF ICE WHICH ADMIT NO ESCAPE AND THREATEN EVERY MOMENT TO CRUSH MY VESSEL! THE COLD IS EXCESSIVE!
I HAVE DECIDED TO GIVE UP MY QUEST! THE LIVES OF MY SAILORS MATTER TO ME MORE THAN MY HOPES OF UTILITY AND GLORY... I SHALL NOT BE THE ONE TO CONFER ON ALL MANKIND A PASSAGE NEAR THE POLE TO THOSE COUNTRIES, WHICH, AT PRESENT, TAKE SO MANY MONTHS TO REACH! VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN'S TALE OPENED MY EYES... HE DIED A VICTIM OF HIS RELENTLESSNESS... AS SOON AS THE ICE MELTS, I WILL HEAD SOUTH...
LIFE BEFORE ALL ELSE!
I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT, IN THE TIMES TO COME, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE LIVING IN THESE TERRITORIES WILL CREATE A LEGEND EVOKING A MONSTER THAT HAUNTS THE ICE FLOE, CRYING AND SCREAMING ITS SUFFERING, ITS LONELINESS AND ITS MISFORTUNE...
GEORGES & PIA BESS
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